



Oswestry

Fans throw out challenge to revive sport

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Welshpool

Night of international wrestling at venue

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Property

Four pages of the latest homes on the market

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Club nets money to help young swimmer

A NEW scholarship has been established to make sure Oswestry's best swimmers don't miss out on essential training because of financial reasons.

The Charlotte Hartley Foundation has agreed to set up the scholarship in partnership with Oswestry Otters Swimming Club.

Phil Chapman, from the swimming club, wrote to the foundation in the hope that it could provide enough funding to pay for a child's annual swim fees.

The foundation embraced the offer of providing the scholarship by gifting £504 towards the project, giving a child the opportunity to reach their full potential and an opportunity that they would not normally have.

Karl Hartley, from the foundation, handed over the cheque to club chairman Pete Fynes. Swimming club bosses now have the difficult decision to decide which child should benefit from the scholarship funding.

Mr Chapman said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for a talented young individual to not miss out and hopefully progress to the next level of their ability."

The foundation was set up in memory of 16-year-old Bronygarth girl Charlotte Hartley who died in July 2009 from complications arising from being misdiagnosed as having swine flu.

Easter fun days ahead

CIVIC bosses in Welshpool have announced plans for an Easter extravaganza in the town - including a hunt for dragons.

Welshpool Town Council says it hopes businesses and stall holders will take part in the celebration.

The council is offering prizes for the best dressed Easter shop window or market stall.

Families are encouraged to go to Welshpool Tourist Information Centre on March 31 and April 1 where the town council will be giving away Easter eggs to successful dragon hunters.

TOWN CENTRE VISION SET TO BE UNVEILED

PLANS to breathe new life into Oswestry's troubled town centre are to be unveiled next month.

With more shops standing empty, there is fresh hope that the Oswestry 2020 document, a crucial economic vision and development strategy for the town, will kick start town centre prosperity.

Nearly 900 people have given their view so far on the document which sets out plans for the town's future.

Oswestry mayor Martin Bennett said one of the main thrusts of the project was likely to be how to improve the town centre in the light of a series of business closures.

Several large town centre properties are now empty, particularly in Cross Street, with the latest victim being travel agent Thomas Cook who announced last week it would be closing. Councillor Bennett said that agreement was reached on Tuesday by the programme's steering group on a draft vision and further consultation would soon be launched with the aim of having the document adopted by councillors by Tuesday, April 30.

The mayor said: "The steering group has agreed a draft vision and indicative projects and that will be going out to public consultation the week before Easter."

"The vision and projects are based on the result of the survey done with the public before Christmas."

"The survey didn't throw up any major shocks or surprises and it is true to say one of the main strategic thrusts is economic development and the future of the town centre."

Plans drawn up to save Oswestry's CCTV system.

And the news means that the CCTV system, which was thought to be in jeopardy, could now have a more secure future.

Police and civic heads met in the town recently to see how the cameras could be upgraded and funded in the future.

Oswestry Town Council paid to install the cameras across the town centre 12 years ago and it was quickly held up as one of the best in Britain.

The control room for the CCTV is based in Oswestry police station and run by a band of dedicated volunteers.

Rumours that the station could close had added to fears over its viability although that threat had now been lifted.

Recently a meeting was held at the Guildhall in Oswestry between representatives from Shropshire Council, West Mercia Police and Oswestry Town Council to look at the future of CCTV.

Town clerk, Mr David Preston, who attended the meeting, said discussions focussed around funding for CCTV particularly in terms of Shropshire Council and what grants it might be able to provide.

The meeting was also told that a co-ordinator had been brought in to look at bringing the camera system up to date.

by Iain St John

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The mayor said: "The steering group has agreed a draft vision and indicative projects and that will be going out to public consultation the week before Easter."

"The vision and projects are based on the result of the survey done with the public before Christmas."

Development

"A lot of work is being done and has already been done on economic development. Oswestry has faced bad times before, such as when the railway closed or Park Hall camp closed, and survived and everyone is working hard for the town."

The mayor said he hoped the Oswestry 2020 document would be adopted by April 30 by town and county councillors.

He said the Oswestry 2020 programme would complement other work already carried out to improve the economy of the area.

These improvements include the drawing up of a North Shropshire visitor strategy, the work by the Oswestry Joint Economic Board to encourage town centre landlords to maintain and improve their properties as well as a project which is aiming to bring transform rooms above shops into apartments.

The mayor added: "Make no mistake, this will not be the end of the process, it will merely be the end of the beginning of a process."

"It will set a strategic direction for Oswestry but the details will still have to be worked out."

"Once the plan is adopted, we will move to the next stage and that is development of specific projects."

Cheers for beer festival



Back, Clive Humphries and Fred Owen from the Lions Club with Alison Parr from the Stonehouse Brewery and Bill Bowen from the Lions Club. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

SOME of the finest beers from around Shropshire will be available to sample at the fifth annual Oswestry Real Ale Festival.

Among the beers available next month will be ale from Oswestry's own Stonehouse Brewery, organisers have said.

About 25 casks of local ales will be available at the event, organised by the Lions Club of Oswestry and taking place at Memorial Hall in Smithfield Street in April.

Spokesmans Clive Humphries said: "The festival is in its fifth year and it is getting better known and getting more and more people turning up."

"We plan again to have around 25 casks of sensational real ale, all supplied by local breweries."

"The list includes Oswestry's own Stonehouse Brewery which will again play a major role in sourcing the beers, providing specialist equipment and support to the event."

"We have also had help and support from the Shropshire branch of Campaign for Real Ale."

As well as real ale there will also be cider, wine and soft drinks available.

People attending the event will also be given some musical entertainment which is described as 'not too loud to drown conversation'.

The festival will start on April 5 from 6pm-11pm and will also take place on April 6 from noon to 11pm and April 7 from noon-4pm. The entry price remains as £7 for the day.

This allows the ticket holder to their first four half pints and a 2013 engraved commemorative glass tankard to use and keep afterwards.

Chocolate appeal by children's hospice

AN appeal has been launched to find 100 Easter eggs for youngsters at Oswestry's Hope House Hospice.

Staff at Hope House Children's Hospice, in Morda, are looking for chocolate donations to give to the children and their siblings.

A few goodies have started to come in, including a chocolate bunny weighing 1.5kg from the Gifts and Greetings shop in King Street.

Paul Cooper, a fundraiser at the hospice, said: "We would like to collect 100 Easter eggs."

"That would allow us to make sure the children here and their siblings get an egg."

"The important thing is we would like the eggs prior to Easter to give to the children on the lead up to celebrations."

People can drop off donations at the hospice in Morda or at one of their shops across the county.

This is the 10th year that the appeal has taken place.

The charity has two hospices in Oswestry and Ty Gobaith, in Conwy, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year. It provides hospice care and support for 252 children and young people their parents, siblings and other family members.

For more information visit www.hopehouse.org.uk or call (01691) 671671.

Vandals hit traffic lights

VANDALS have targeted two sets of temporary traffic lights at villages near Welshpool.

Cables have been cut and batteries stolen from lights at Foel and Llangadfan and now Powys County Council is asking residents to report any suspicious activity.

Cllr Barry Thomas, Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "The culprits are endangering drivers and I would urge anyone who has seen anything suspicious to report it to the police immediately."

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Villagers asked to shape future of communities

by **Iain St John**

PEOPLE in villages around Oswestry are being asked to help shape how their communities develop.

Their views are needed so Oswestry Rural Parish Council can refresh its Parish Plan.

A series of meetings will be held over the coming weeks so a steering committee can be put together to drive the project forward.

New homes questions addressed at meeting

A VILLAGE near Oswestry won't be swamped with new housing if it becomes a community cluster for future planning development.

Weston Rhyn parish council's wish to be seen as a new style community cluster had brought fears that housing estates could spring up.

But at a parish council meeting this week, a Shropshire council officer stressed that the parish would set its goals for building.

Parish clerk Roger Dyke said that councillors at the meeting on Monday agreed that the current development trend of six new homes a year should continue.

Mr Dyke said the cluster would mean that new housing would not be just in Weston Rhyn but may be in other parts of the parish such as Chirk Bank or Rhosweil.

The parish council previously indicated that it wanted to see the entire area designated a community cluster under Shropshire Council planning guidelines a councillors did not want one area taking on all the new housing.

The council says the plan has to be done now because it has been more than six years since the last one was published.

The findings of the parish plan will be fed into Shropshire Council's SAMDev (Site Allocations and Management of Development) strategy which will govern how the county develops.

A parish council spokesman said: "It has been over six years since the last Parish Plan was published and much has changed since then, not least to national planning and local legislation. "The council would like residents to be involved and tell the council what they want."

"This is a big undertaking and there is little money to finance this exercise, so there will be four initial meetings where the council hope to recruit volunteers to form a steering group for their local area within the parish wards."

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday to serve people living in the Maesbury with Aston ward.

Those talks will be held in the WI hut in Maesbury. People who live in Trefonen and Treflach are invited to attend a meeting on April 11 at the village hall in Trefonen.

Residents of the Rhydy-croesau with Sychtyn ward will have a meeting on April 16 at the village hall in Rhydy-croesau. A date is yet to be announced for Morda and Sweeney ward.

Civic awards handed out



Kath Evans from the Attfield Theatre with Councillor Martin Bennett.



Ruth Carter and Ian Garland from Kinoculture with Councillor Bennett.

TWO organisations who share the same premises in Oswestry have each received civic community awards.

Oswestry Town Council usually award one of its community trophies a year, but mayor, Councillor Martin Bennett, said this year the two could not be separated.

Awards were presented to The Attfield Theatre and Kinoculture, both based in the Guildhall, home of the town council.

Councillor Bennett said: "The Attfield has a history going back to 1928 after the head of Oswestry Girls High School called a public meeting at the school for all those interested in the theatre."

"The club has moved several times until 1972 when, with the support of the Town Council, it moved into a redundant courtroom in the Guildhall. It provides a wonderful series of plays throughout the year."

"The award was presented to recognise the marvellous entertainment the theatre members provide for the community."

Also given a community award was Kinoculture, a not for profit organisation based in the Guildhall with the aim of bringing a film culture to Oswestry.

The individual award went to the minister of the environment and North Shropshire MP, Owen Paterson.

Tributes paid to big band musician

TRIBUTES have been paid to a big band musician from Morda who played with jazz stars such as George Chisholm.

Bryan Jones was the leader of the Bryan Jones Big Band.

He lived in Morda, near Oswestry, and died on February 14 after suffering a heart attack.

He was a widower and is survived by three sons, two daughters and eight grandchildren.

Until his retirement he was branch manager of the Britannia Building Society in Oswestry.

His brother Colin Jones, who played in the band, said: "He will be remembered throughout the Midlands and the North West for his contribution to music of the big band era."

His band made several recordings and appeared on television with BBC Wales and Harlech Television.

Many top jazz musicians performed with the band including George Chisholm, Roy Williams and Dave Shepherd.

Colin Jones said: "They and many others became personal friends which reflected the respect which Bryan commanded and likewise in turn the respect he always gave to the musicians who performed with him."

Fashion show at town hall

A FASHION show will take place in Ellesmere to raise money for the Community Care Centre.

It will be held at Ellesmere Town Hall, in Willow Street, from 7.30pm on Saturday. Tickets, priced £5, will include a glass of wine and nibbles.

They are available from Tiggs clothing shop in the town, which is organising the event.

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JUNE

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NEWS

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Grower to host day of advice on orchids

ORCHID lovers will be out in force on Sunday to attend a free event hosted by an award-winning grower.

Chris Channon is hosting an Orchid Day at Moreton Park Garden Centre to provide customers with free advice and plant MoTs.

Chris, a Royal Horticultural Society gold medalist, said: "I'm delighted to be at Moreton Park Garden Centre's Orchid Day."

"It gives orchid enthusiasts the chance to find out how to best look after their plants, as well as have any of their queries answered."

"People are welcome to bring their own orchids along during the day. I'll be able to give them a free orchid MoT during my orchid clinic and diagnose any problems they may have, as well as give handy 'dos and don'ts' on how to treat their orchids, especially when they're not at their best."

The Orchid Day will take place from 10.30am until 4.30pm. Chris will host a combined 'Tropical Orchids for Beginners' talk and re-potting demonstration at 11am and again at 2pm.

Chris has teamed up with Growth Technology to offer customers the best care and advice for the orchid plants.

Cycling goods on sale at jumble

OSWESTRY cyclists are holding a cycle jumble on Saturday, March 23.

The jumble is at Gatacre Sports Pavilion, off Gatacre Avenue, near Woodside School, and runs between 10am and 1pm.

If you are wanting to clear out your shed and sell items, £2 buys a table space, and there will be teas and coffees and cake on sale.

For more information about the event call (01691) 659773 or e-mail info@velos.co.uk

Rail link won't be held up by problems crossing road

VOLUNTEERS say a £9million proposal to reinstate Oswestry's link to the national rail network will not be held up by problems crossing the town's by-pass at Gobowen roundabout.

Cambrian Heritage Railway volunteers told Wednesday night's meeting of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce that powers were already in place as there was an existing line.

Rob Williams said: "We are constantly being asked how we will manage but it is not an issue we are worried about. We are an existing railway and powers are already in place. All the legal advice is that this is not an issue."

"The next key step is to secure a transport works order to allow passengers to travel on the reopened Oswestry to Gobowen link."

He said that application was already in draft form and reopening the line would have huge tourism and economic advantages, adding that a heritage line in Ffestiniog in Wales brought in £9 million of tourism spending every year and created more than 300 jobs in the region.

And Mr Williams appealed to local businesses to become involved. "We have £25,000 in grants so far and have been able to match that figure but we need sponsorship from local businesses who will recognise the economic importance to Oswestry of this plan."

"The project will provide 50 full time jobs as part of the £9million reconstruction programme, will provide 100 full time jobs on completion and huge benefits to Oswestry as a tourist location."

Secret

He said up to 55,000 visitors per year could be expected following comparisons with similar ventures across the country.

Chamber of Commerce chairman, Martin Anderson appealed for Oswestry businesses to back the scheme. "Oswestry has so much to offer but is generally a well kept secret. Many people don't know the town exists from a tourism perspective."

"Having this railway set-up in town would be a huge pull and would bring thousands of tourists to Oswestry and would be a real boost to the economy."

The reopening of the Oswestry to Gobowen link is the first phase of the organisation's ambitious plans costing £3 million the second phase, reopening a line from Oswestry to Weston would cost £1.2 million.

The third phase to Porthwaen and Llyn-clys would cost £2.8 million while a final phase to Blodwell would cost £2 million.

He said the group hoped to have the transport works order approved by August next year and building work start in 2015.

Tracy brings big top to town



Tracy Jones is bringing the circus to Oswestry.

AN Oswestry woman who ran away to join the circus 29 years ago will be bringing her own big top to town next week.

Tracy Jones was just 16 back in 1984 when she ran away to join Gandy's Circus but is now running her own Circus Funtasia along with her partner Julio Nikolov.

And she will delight her large local family next week when she brings the circus to Oswestry Showground with magicians, illusionists, acrobats and clowns dazzling the audiences.

Tracy, now 45, caught the circus bug after helping out at a stunt rider's stables and left school to join Gandy's, working her way through a variety of roles from looking after animals to appearing as a trapeze artist.

Tracy and Julio also worked on the travelling Circus Star Show until the pair decided to launch their own circus last year.

"It's great to be bringing the show to my home town," said Tracy, whose nine-year-old daughter Nia also appears as an acrobat and juggler.

"My parents Gary and Elynded Jones are both really excited - and all the family will be coming to the showground, which is really nice. My mother, who works at Hope House Hospice, said I was mad when I ran away but she can't wait to see the new circus and I have been able to donate tickets to the hospice."

The circus will be at Oswestry from Wednesday to Friday at 5pm and 7.30pm; Saturday at 3pm and 6pm and at 3pm on Sunday, before moving to Shrewsbury.

NEWS in brief

Students gather ideas for centre

MEMBERS of the Student Leadership Group at The Marches School in Oswestry have visited a local business to gather ideas for the new Sixth Form Centre at the school.

Along with three members of staff, the students enjoyed a tour of the showroom at The British Ironwork Centre near Aston.

Ben Knowles, operations director at The British Ironwork Centre, invited the students and the group left the venue buzzing with ideas. Claire Buckle, head of Sixth Form, said: "We are currently working with the Student Leadership Group to develop ideas for the new Sixth Form Centre."

"Plans are only in their very early stages; however, we are keen that the Sixth Form space is designed by the students themselves."

Store's helping hand for farmers

FARMERS are being offered a helping hand by an Oswestry-based country store.

Wynnstays Stores on Glovers Meadow will be hosting a Spring agricultural event next Wednesday.

Key suppliers from the agricultural industry will be available along with Wynnstays' own advisers, including Adrian Morgan, the company's dairy business development manager, to offer advice as farmers plan for spring.

Gardeners gather for guest speaker

GARDENERS will be meeting in Trefonen next Thursday to hear a talk from a National Plant Collector holder.

Tim Saville will speak to members of Trefonen and District Gardening Club in the Village Hall on 'Hostas'.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and entry is £1 to members and £2 for visitors.

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NEWS

Legend part of new trail

OSWESTRY'S most famous legend is likely to be a key part of the town's new trail of more than 30 sculptures, organisers have said.

A sculpture of an eagle is set to be one of the first to go up as part of the unusual safari attraction – and it may even be placed beside the town's historic Oswald's Well.

Organisers of the safari sculpture trail say the eagle will recognise the legend of St Oswald. He was killed in the Battle of Maserfield in 642AD.

by **Graham Breeze**

£50k on offer to top projects

COMMUNITY projects in the Welshpool area could be in line for a bumper £50,000 award.

The Big Lottery Fund is giving away four awards of £50,000 in Wales as The People's Millions TV funding competition launches for 2013.

Projects could be in with a chance of bagging the cash provided that entrants can convince their community through a broadcast on ITV Wales news that their idea is worthy of the prize.

The People's Millions is an annual TV competition run by Big Lottery Fund and ITV, which funds community projects that will improve the lives of local people. This year there are four awards of up to £50,000 on offer in each of the 19 ITV regional news areas across the UK.

The competition opened for entries this week. Whoever gets the most votes through a phone vote will win the funding to put their plans into action. Entry packs are available at www.peoplesmillions.org.uk

According to legend one of his arms was carried to a tree by an eagle, leading to the name of Oswald's Tree, which some historians believe led to the name Oswestry.

Shropshire Councillor Vince Hunt said a meeting would take place next week to discuss the next step in the sculpture project.

The artwork is being gifted free of charge by Oswestry firm The British Ironworks Centre (BIC).

Councillor Hunt said: "We are looking at where the sculptures should be placed.

"One idea is the eagle sculpture should be one of the first sculptures to go up because the eagle has such close connections to Oswestry. An appropriate place could be behind Oswald's Well as it is said Oswald's Well was where the eagle dropped the arm from the tree.

"I have spoken to Oswestry School and the headteacher Douglas Robb says he supports the plan to have the eagle on school land behind Oswald's Well.

"We will be meeting on Thursday next week to discuss the next steps."

The trail project aims to draw visitors into the town.

Councillor Hunt and Shropshire Council leader Keith Barrow met Clive and Tracey Knowles, proprietors of BIC, in Aston last month to see some of the enigmatic animals, a number of which reach as high as 10ft.

There will be 20 small sculptures and between 10 to 15 larger pieces.

Julie's fundraiser for father



Julie Davies, 37, with her dog called Lennox, who she goes running with.

OSWESTRY hairdresser Julie Davies is pounding the pavements in preparation for the London Marathon.

Just over 12 months ago, Julie's dad Jim was diagnosed with cancer, so in April last year she ran the Manchester Marathon, raising over £2,500 for The Lingen Davies Centre where her dad has been receiving treatment.

This year Julie, 37, secured a place in the London Marathon and has decided to run for two charities, Cancer Research UK and Severn Hospice.

She also frequently goes running with her dog Lennox, who has proved a great source of motivation and Julie, who works at Boyz II Men Barbers in Willow Street, is also holding a 'guess my time' sweepstake in the salon. To help visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/juliedavies **therunninghairdresser**

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NEWS

01691 668094

Ex-smoker Yvonne helping others to pack in the habit



Yvonne Huxley, from the Caxton Pharmacy, in Oswestry, stopped smoking three years ago and is urging others to kick the habit. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

YVONNE Huxley finally gave up cigarettes after more than 30 years – and this week she urged others to get help to pack in the habit.

Yvonne, pharmacy assistant at Pharmacy@Caxton on Oswald Road, said she and her husband managed to stop through the Help 2 Quit programme at the neighbouring Caxton Surgery. The couple smoked around 55 cigarettes a day between them and Mrs Huxley said she had tried to stop through various methods over the years but had always failed.

However, nearly three years ago the couple turned to the Help 2 Quit programme and started on Champix tablets which made them turn their back on smoking for good.

National No Smoking Day was held on Wednesday when more than a million smokers attempted to quit.

Mrs Huxley said: "I was smoking 10 to 15 cigarettes a day and my husband 40 and we both went to zero within a couple of weeks of starting at the Help 2 Quit clinic at The Caxton Surgery.

"I'd tried all of the various methods, patches, gum but nothing worked until the clinic programme. I'd urge anyone who has tried everything except the Help 2 Quit clinic to give it a go. You have nothing to lose but a lot to gain: improved health, a longer life expectancy and a few more nice holidays a year with the cash you save.

"As I've worked in pharmacies for the last 18 years I didn't really have an excuse as the help was right there in front of me. I'd definitely recommend it."

John Gentle, superintendent pharmacist at Pharmacy@Caxton added: "We have seen people's lives change dramatically through the Help 2 Quit programme. They visit the Thursday night clinic at the surgery next door as a smoker and within a few weeks or months they have given up. It is amazing work, not the easiest journey but with the real desire to give up they do it.

"Our team, especially Yvonne who knows the journey they are experiencing, can also give that extra support which may be needed when they are collecting their prescription for the method they are using."

by Sue Austin

Leisure firm's profits go up

THE company which manages services at five of Shropshire's biggest leisure centres, including Oswestry, this week unveiled a multi-million pound rise in profits.

International services company Serco, which provides back-up to companies in the health, education, leisure, transport and defence sectors, announced pre-tax profits of £302 million.

This was a leap of more than £60 million on the previous year.

The company has a contract with Shropshire Community Leisure Trust to provide management services to Oswestry Leisure Centre, Market Drayton Swimming Centre, Shrewsbury Sports Village and Indoor Bowls Hall, Whitchurch Swimming Centre and the Quarry Fitness and Swimming Centre in Shrewsbury.

In Shropshire, Serco signed a 10-year contract to manage the five leisure centres, with an option to extend the deal for a further five.

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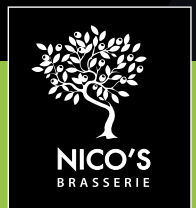
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NEWS

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NEWS

in brief

Council seeking unsung heroes

UNSUNG heroes in Oswestry could become honorary freemen or women under new plans.

Oswestry Town Council has decided to appoint two freemen before the end of the council term in May.

Traditionally the historic appointment was made by the former district or borough councils.

Oswestry's mayor Councillor Martin Bennett said: "There are many unsung heroes in our community. We welcome your suggestions on who should be recognised and rewarded."

Anyone who would like to nominate an Oswestry resident should contact town clerk David Preston on (01691) 680222.

Cash boost for attractions signs

NEW signs are set to go up in Ellesmere to help promote events and attractions after the town received a share of a £500,000 cash pot.

An events sign will be installed opposite the Mere to help promote the 11 annual events that take place in the town.

These include Ellesmere Food and Drink Festival, Ellesmere Regatta and Ellesmere Festival.

Ten new fingerposts will be added to direct people to the Ellesmere sculptures and Ellesmere Market Hall.

Businesses get grants cash to help with revamp plans

A NEW fashion store and other businesses in Oswestry have been given a share of £15,500 in grant funding to help with revamp plans.

The Oswestry Joint Economic Board has approved £15,500 in funding for three refurbishment projects in Oswestry town centre.

A grant of £1,500 was given to two women to start up a new fashion store in Willow Street, providing fashion for 16-25 year olds. The OJEB also offered business support and mentoring through its start-up programme in November last year.

Two other properties in Leg Street have been granted the maximum £7,000 which will go towards the refurbishment of properties. One will be rented when completed, and the other will become an estate agents.

The cash has come from the Retail Regeneration Grant Scheme which is being run by the OJEB. This board is made up of Shropshire Councillors and Oswestry Town Councillors.

The aim of the grant is to create an attractive, customer-friendly town centre through regenerating retail premises. There is £75,000 in the grant available to award to prospective projects.

Councillor Keith Barrow, leader of Shropshire Council and Shropshire councillor for Oswestry South, said: "These projects signal the start of what we all hope will be a new beginning for Oswestry town centre. We still have £58,500 in funding to award to projects, so it's looking promising."

"We encourage any individual or organisation with an idea to consider putting together an application for these grants."

Councillor Martin Bennett, Shropshire councillor for Oswestry East, said: "We realise that we are living through some very difficult times for the retail sector. We hope that these grants will help achieve something the applicants may have struggled to do without some assistance from the councils, who are doing all they can to support Oswestry town centre."

Anyone interested in applying can email susan.coleman@shropshire.gov.uk

by Graham Breeze

Officers to get bravery award

TWO Oswestry police officers who disarmed a thug brandishing a knife and a baseball bat have been commended for bravery.

Constables Mark Roberts and Matthew Norfolk will receive West Mercia Police Superintendent's Commendations for their 'bravery and quick-thinking actions'.

They were called to a house near Oswestry in July last year following a report of a violent drunken man trying to force his way in. When they arrived they saw the man running at and kicking the front door of the home.

He had a baseball bat in one hand and a knife in the other. After a struggle, they arrested him.

Sergeant Lee Johnson, in recommending Constables Roberts and Norfolk for commendations, said: "The officers displayed considerable courage in tackling a man armed with a baseball bat and knife in order to protect the public."

Pupils create a buzz at event



Jess Langford and Pariss Smith serve local resident Maureen Bryant. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

A COFFEE morning run for the elderly community of a village near Oswestry was taken over by youngsters.

The regular event was a little different this week when it took place at the St Martins Methodist Church Community Hall in Ellesmere Road last Thursday.

It was taken over by pupils from St Martins School who had been baking in preparation for the morning. About nine young people aged 11 to 16 arrived at 10.30am ready to serve more than 30 elderly people with tea and cake.

They called it the Coffee Morning Takeover and it was part of a youth project called Buzz. It's aim was to try and get the two generations to mix.

Volunteer Linda McIntyre said: "The regular coffee morning is for the elders of the community and it is run by a group of volunteers including Sue Heard and other members of the community."

"This week the youngsters prepared everything. They did it in the cookery technology classes."

Weekend market has taste of Europe

OSWESTRY will be hosting its first ever weekend-long continental market this spring.

Stall holders from across Europe will be bringing their products to the Shropshire market town on April 6 and 7 from 9am until 5pm.

There will be more than 25 stalls selling a number of fresh items from their home countries including France, Italy, Germany and Belgium.

Stalls will be set up along Bailey Head, Bailey Street and Cross Street selling items such as olives, tartiflette from the French Alps and Spanish Paella and Chorizo.

There will also be French crepes on offer as well as Dutch toffee waffles, Peruvian clothes, Paris hand bags and cheese.

David Clough, retail markets and events manager for Oswestry Town Council, said: "We want to have a continental start to the year to start off celebrations before the food festival which takes place in July."

"It would be nice to make Oswestry a destination for good quality food."

Last year the town hosted a one day event to follow in the success of July's food and drink festival. It was held in September.

The next Farmers' Market is in Powis Hall, Bailey Head, on March 29. It will be a special Easter fun day.



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Websites' platforms vulnerable to hackers

AN OSWESTRY computer expert has warned small businesses that their websites could be in danger of being taken over by hackers.

Websites using older versions of the popular Joomla and WordPress platforms are increasingly being hacked, according to Patrick Barnes, director of Moghill Web Services.

Mr Barnes said website owners may not even know that it has happened.

He said in some cases the hackers replace website homepages with a 'bragging page' claiming responsibility for the hacking. But sometimes the hacking can be more sinister, and fake bank websites can be set up or a virus placed that infects the computers of unsuspecting website visitors.

Affected websites can either disappear completely, be shut down by the hosting company or even be removed from web searches.

Mr Barnes said some website companies have used the Joomla and WordPress software to build websites for businesses but haven't told their customers they need to keep the software up-to-date.

The problem could affect any website built between 2008 and last year, when Joomla 1.5 was withdrawn, and WordPress sites that have not been updated since they were built, he said.

Delivery driver stole money from bakery and cricket club

A FORMER Oswestry bank manager who was working as a delivery driver for a bakery has admitted stealing thousands of pounds from the company.

Graham Peter Barnett, aged 65, deceived bosses at F Smith and Son in Oswestry over a three year period, Shrewsbury Crown Court heard. He had previously pleaded guilty to stealing almost £4,000 while he was the treasurer for Cae Glas Cricket Club.

Judge Peter Barrie adjourned sentence until May for reports, telling Barnett both cases involved a breach of trust and warning him he could face a jail term. Barnett, of Hampton Fields, Oswestry, was released on bail.

The offences are said to have taken place between February 2008 and April 2011, when Barnett was working for F Smith and Son.

Prosecutors allege Barnett stole £27,000 from the bakery, but he claims he only pocketed £4,700.

A guilty plea was accepted on the basis of Barnett's claim at a hearing last Thursday, but the Crown Prosecution Service will apply for a Proceeds of Crime hearing over the disputed amount.

During the same period Barnett admitted taking £3,946 while the unpaid treasurer for the cricket club.

Barnett was due to stand trial later this month, but changed his plea on an agreed basis at his latest appearance. He had admitted the cricket club theft at an earlier hearing.

Mr Robert Edwards, prosecuting, told the court Barnett only accepted having taken £4,700. He said that Barnett was involved in collecting money from customers and that the analysis of all the documents in the case was complex.

Barnett has until April 4 to provide a statement of his assets for the court.

Miss Samantha Crabb, for Barnett, said her client would be in a position to repay the money he agreed he had taken to the bakery and the cricket club.

by Graham Breeze

Top hotel for sale at £595k

AN award-winning Montgomery hotel, which dates back to the 17th century, is on the market for an asking price of £595,000.

The 20-room Dragon Hotel in Montgomery is being sold for the first time in 22 years as its present owners Mark and Sue Michaels look to retire.

A former coaching inn, the distinctive Grade II listed hotel stands next to Montgomery Castle and overlooks the town's market place.

Mr Michaels, who is Montgomery's current mayor, said he and his wife had decided to retire, but would be moving to a house they have in the town.

He said he would also be carrying on with his council duties and said the couple were looking forward to somebody else taking on the running of the hotel.

He said: "After being here for nearly 23 years we both think it is time to move on." All inquiries should be directed to Peter Brunt on (0117) 9172000.

War Horse author opens festival



Michael Morpurgo, right, meeting Rachael Saunders and her children Jake Saunders, 15, and Lottie Roberts, eight, from Duddleston Heath. Picture: Ian Sheppard.

WAR Horse author Michael Morpurgo delighted hundreds of children as he kicked off the opening weekend of a literary festival in Oswestry.

The much-loved children's writer took to the stage with his wife Clare in front of a sold-out audience of 300 people at The Marches School as part of the annual Oswestry Festival of the Word event, which is in its fourth year.

He was there to talk about his latest book Where My Wellies Take Me, an anthology he wrote with his wife. The former teacher has written more than 120 books, his best-known being War Horse. The story of a

horse and its owner battling for survival during the First World War has been translated into 45 different languages, turned into a successful stage show and made into a Steven Spielberg film.

Mr Morpurgo spoke about the influence Shropshire World War I poet Wilfred Owen has had on his own work and finished his talk by performing a folk song.

Festival director John Waine said the event had gone down brilliantly.

Other events planned for the rest of the festival include an evening with Whitbread Prize winning novelist Kate Atkinson, at The Wynnstay Hotel on Friday March 22.

NEWS

in brief

Lorry stuck after taking wrong turn

A LORRY became stuck in a village on the Shropshire/Wales border when it took a wrong turning early on Monday morning.

It was driving in Pant, near Oswestry, when it got stuck at the junction of the A483 and School Lane.

West Mercia Police and Dyfed-Powys Police forces both attended the incident at about 7am.

Richard Ewels, a spokesman for West Mercia Police, said the stuck lorry was not caused by a collision.

He said: "We had a call at 7am to say a DAF Box Lorry was stuck at the junction of the A483 and School Lane while trying to take a turn. It had to be recovered."

Artist needed to brighten up area

WELSHPOOL Town Council has put out an appeal for an artist to help them bring to life an area of land opposite the Spar supermarket.

There is already a £9,000 plan to create a sculpture designed by student Harriot Bates who won an open competition, close to the Tourist Information Centre but the council needs an expert hand to help develop a second project close by.

The successful candidate will work closely with the Youth Council and High School. Visit wteou@btinternet.com

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Insurance company rip-off tactics drive us mad

DO INSURANCE companies drive you mad? Well I'm disgusted by their 'rip-off' tactics.

With a change of car on the horizon I approached my insurers for a quote, only to be told that my premium would go up by £50 per month.

Understandably I told the young lady on the other end of the line she could think again. No way was I going to agree to paying an extra £600 per year.

Her answer was that I could cancel my current policy, sacrifice my no-claims bonus and start a new policy – and for only £50 a year more than my current one.

So how could they do it so cheaply for a new policy I asked? Well apparently it was company policy and there was no flexibility.

Well that company is now one client less and don't really deserve anyone's custom if that's the way they treat people.

A quick check on a well known compar-

**BREEZE
ABOUT
TOWN**

with Graham Breeze



son website and my gleaming new car was fully insured at £50 a year less than my original policy. Result.

It's time the Government carried out a full review of the insurance industry. These tactics are a disgrace and how many of us are victims? How many of us simply renew with the same company as a matter of course?

There is no reward for loyalty these days, in fact my experience is you are penalised.

And for those of you wondering which company I'm writing about – I was a cus-

tommer of Marks & Spencer but now am fully insured by the RAC.

WHILE on the motoring subject I suspect quite a few readers have been squirming a bit as Chris Huhne and Vicky Pryce's points sharing scandal unfolded on our screens this week and ended with the pair of them behind bars.

How many of us have been tempted to ask a partner to take a few points to help us hold on to our licences?

Luckily I have a clean licence so have never felt the need but Chris Huhne won't be alone in his quest to stay behind the wheel.

The prospect of a prison cell will make a lot more people think twice about fiddling the system.

THE Falklands may be a long way from British shores but the islanders send a clear message to the rest of the world this week

when they voted overwhelmingly in favour of remaining a UK overseas territory.

Of 1,517 votes cast in the two-day referendum – on a turnout of more than 90% – 1,513 were in favour, while just three votes were against.

It follows pressure from Argentina over its claims to the islands, 31 years after the Falklands War with the UK. The islanders' hope is that their voices will be listened to all the way to Buenos Aires and beyond – not least by other nations and capitals that Argentina has been seeking to convince of its claims.

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has maintained that the Falkland islanders' wishes are not relevant in what is a territorial issue.

Argentina should accept the results of this referendum and support the Falkland islanders as they develop their home and their economy. But I get the feeling this is a long way from the end of the matter.

Lacrosse fans throw out challenge to revive sport

by Claire Dunn

IT was once the stuff that Enid Blyton novels were made of. Now it is said to be the fastest game on two legs – and it is about to take off in Shropshire.

Lacrosse – the sport of independent schools and universities – is undergoing something of a renaissance.

Its governing body – the English Lacrosse Association – is throwing the sport out into the community in a bid to get more people involved.

Indeed, it has just landed a £3.4 million windfall to do just that – thanks to the success of the less high profile sports at the London 2012 Olympic Games which inspired the nation.

In Shropshire, it has just launched the county's first community lacrosse club, which is open to anyone who wants to learn the sport or get playing again. And leading the lacrosse revolution in the county is Taryn Abbassian. The 22-year-old, from Chicago, is promoting and coaching the sport from her base at Moreton Hall School, near Oswestry.

The school itself considers lacrosse to be one of its top sports – the school competes at many levels and finished ninth out of 56 teams last season.

Taryn, who is the English Lacrosse Association's school development officer, said: "The school has done very well. They take lacrosse very seriously and it is a priority sport here. The girls here are very athletic and talented."

The sport is big in America and Canada and the association is hoping the lacrosse bug will be spread even further over here out of schools and into the community.

Lacrosse is played a bit like netball with an attack and a defence, says Taryn.

"There are 12 players including the goalie," she said. "And it is very exciting to watch."



Niamh Frain, left, and Alice Mitchell at Moreton Hall School, near Oswestry.

The objective of the game is to score by shooting the ball into an opponent's goal, using the lacrosse stick to catch, carry, and pass the ball to do so.

Defensively, the objective is to keep the opposing team from scoring and to dispose of them of the ball through the use of stick checking and body contact or positioning. It is a physical game – the girls wear gumshields and eye protection and the goalie is padded from top to bottom.

The Shropshire Lacrosse Club is aimed at all women and girls aged 13 or over who want to give lacrosse a go or get back into the sport.

"Lacrosse is said to be the fastest game on two legs – it's a very exciting competitive sport," said Taryn. "We are seeing a tremendous interest in women's lacrosse in England and are very keen to get as many people as possible into the sport."



Alice Mitchell, Taryn Abbassian (coach), Frederica Rowland and Niamh Frain get ready for a game.

The club holds two training sessions every Wednesday evening – from 6.30pm to 7.30pm for 13 to 17-year-olds and 7.30-8.30pm for those aged 18 and above.

Taryn said: "People don't need any experience nor any equipment. We are looking for anyone who is interested. We just want as many people as possible to have the opportunity to play."

Kate Groves is head of sport at Moreton Hall. She said lacrosse is the fastest growing team sport in the country, partly because of the investment in it.

She said: "This is a sport which you can play on any pitch. You can play it anywhere."

She believes that, like netball, lacrosse won't be an Olympic sport – mainly because of the speed of the game.

"When it is played fast you wouldn't be able to see the ball," she said.

David Shuttleworth, the English Lacrosse chief executive, says lacrosse has boomed in recent years with impressive growth in universities feeding through into the creation of more clubs and community lacrosse programmes.

"We are confident that this growth will continue in the future and this funding will only reinforce our efforts," he adds.

And there is much to celebrate – the association, which is based in Manchester, will mark the 100 years of women's lacrosse in April.

And in 2017, England will host the Women's Lacrosse World Cup in Guildford. As Mr Shuttleworth says: "Lacrosse is a modern, cool sport with room to grow. It is our time."

● Anyone interested in the lacrosse community club can contact Taryn on abbassian@moretonhall.com

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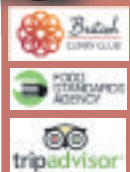
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LETTERS & NEWS

01691 668094

Scandal proves quangos toothless

THIS horsemeat in burgers scandal should teach us one thing – quangos are toothless, expensive and unaccountable.

When Sir John Major was Prime Minister the Food Standards Agency issued a new consumers guide to food labelling to show the nature, identity, properties, composition, quantity, durability, origin and method of packing and production.

It included 16 different items of information. The Food Standards Agency used to have 1,700 inspectors, today it has 900, its budget has been slashed by 70 per cent and why not?

From its £140 million budget last year it spent £46 million on administration.

Get rid of all quangos and insist that politicians earn their salary, pension, perks, allowances and subsidies, all ring-fenced from the present economic crisis affecting the rest of us.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Give us our country back

THERE are always a number of letters about immigration and benefits.

If a family with two children comes to this country and one has a job on minimum wage, they can claim between £240 and £300 per week, tax free, paid by the British taxpayer.

Bulgaria and Romania have a right to come here next year.

We have no jobs, no money and no infrastructure for the millions waiting to come to our small island. We can't afford to wait for a dithering Prime Minister to give us a vote in five years.

If the Conservatives are elected, if there is no coalition, if Cameron is still Prime Minister, we must give Britain back to the British.

ROY ROWLAND
Ellesmere

Let's talk about drones please

THERE is growing concern in the USA that drones (pilotless aircraft) are hitting the wrong targets.

Before we use our own drones, should there be some discussion on the subject, at least?

ALLAN TUCKER
Oswestry

Consider the actual cost

THIS is an open letter to Leighton Andrews and Powys County Council Cabinet Members.

Yes, you may be saving money in the short term by closing small schools, but would you please do us the favour of stopping and asking yourself, 'What is the long-term cost?'

We owe it to the next generation, who will soon be making decisions about our future, to provide them with a choice of education. One size does not fit all, big is not always better.

Just take the current mess we are in with our meat supply chain, the Government closed down all the small local abattoirs and made all the animals suffer undue stress by having to travel vast distances to be slaughtered in large factories where corruption and greed rule.

Now we see everyone avoiding the meat from the faceless impersonal super suppliers and once more return-

ing to the local village to speak to someone who knows your name and understands your individual requirements. Now apply that analogy to our schools and the so-called schools modernisation scheme.

Do we really want to create all through super schools that cater for the masses not the individuals, where inevitably many slightly out of the ordinary children will be overlooked and slip through the net?

Legacy

Where hardly anyone knows your name and if they do it might be for the wrong reason and you get stuck with a label that follows you all the way through your entire school life.

I think we have all had enough of the effects of short-sighted greed and quick fixes, let's now leave a legacy we can be proud of, let's not think about cushioning blows to ourselves but of

investing in a future for education that will truly excel. Let's look at what's right with what we've got and celebrate it.

Talk to parents and staff and children and you will hear what is working and what's not, instead of commissioning surveys that produce figures and statistics that can be moulded to suit your argument.

My eldest son goes to Llandinam School and his younger brother attends the brilliant Learning Tree which feeds into Llandinam School. I have tried sending my eldest son to a large primary school in the area and it didn't work for him, his specific learning needs were not being met and he made no progress there. He is now thriving at Llandinam School. It would be a devastating blow to us if you were to close our school.

REBECCA DELVE
Newtown



Mmm, that food looks delicious. These are some of the original staff from the late 1960s of Hughes caterers in Welshpool, although we're not sure whether this was taken then, or was a later gathering of pioneers.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Readers' Letters,
Oswestry Chronicle,
Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU

FAX

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254605

E-MAIL

letters@oswestry
chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Don't take us for fools

CHIEF Constable David Shaw says closing Ellesmere, Albrighton and Ironbridge police stations will result in improved efficiency. That reducing from 30 bases to 11 'would be a real win for us'.

Apparently, this has come about because in 2003/04 more stations were opened in Shropshire than anywhere else – really? The result of all these cutbacks will be 'a more efficient force'. Apparently closer leadership and tasking will create this efficiency.

Mr Shaw, please don't treat us as if we are idiots. David Cameron's fingerprints are all over this, and we know it.

GRAEME HARRIS, Shrewsbury

Meat warnings in Veggie month

RESEARCHERS recently announced that processed red meat has been linked to early death.

This comes as no surprise as it has been long established that the high salt and saturated fat content of such products is linked to heart disease, stroke and obesity.

The connection to colon cancer was first scientifically established more than 20 years ago.

Further research since then has only added to the weight of evidence.

When will processed meat products carry health warnings in the same manner as other products hazardous to health, such as cigarettes?

It is highly appropriate that this news should come in March given that it is National Veggie Month.

People wishing to give up meat can contact Animal Aid for free information on going veggie either by calling 01732 364546 or by emailing info@animalaid.org.uk

BEN MARTIN, Animal Aid

Plea for help over wind farm schemes

A YEAR ago there was widespread protest against plans by National Grid to erect transmission lines across the Shropshire landscape to link prospective wind farms in Wales to the grid.

Since then, Powys County Council has refused planning applications for five massive wind farms in Mid Wales and a transmission line between Llandinam and Kerry.

A public inquiry is to be held in Welshpool in June into all the applications. The outcome will determine whether power lines are needed across Shropshire; if they are refused, the pylons will not be required.

Protest groups have combined to form a Campaign Alliance to engage a barrister to give evidence at the inquiry and have launched a fighting fund to meet the costs, likely to exceed £100,000. The groups include Rea Valley Against Pylons and Shropshire North Against Pylons, as well as CPRE Shropshire.

We shall be making a donation from our reserves and urge those who packed the protest meetings last year also to contribute.

To help send a cheque payable to 'Take the Power Back' to Richard Bonfield, Lexington Court, Kerry, Newtown, Powys SY16 4LU.

Or by electronic banking to HSBC sort code 40-46-07, account number 21522736, in which case send a message to richard@rbonfield.com so he can acknowledge your donation.

SELBY MARTIN
CPRE Shropshire

This is not what NHS should do

WELSH secretary David Jones has been called offensive for saying that marriage is essential for the provision of a warm and safe environment for bringing up children. Baroness Deech, head of the Bar Standards Board says that harm done to children growing up without a father is more than the damage from smoking, alcohol, poor diet and lack of exercise. Family judge Sir Paul Coleridge said the same thing.

Now the NHS is being told to give free IVF treatment to lesbian couples. We have strayed from the original purpose of the NHS – to help us to stay healthy.

RON JONES
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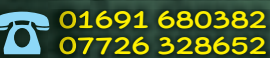


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WELSHPOOL

01691 668094

NEWS

in brief

Pianist Yasmin to play in Welshpool

WELSHPOOL Music Club will welcome pianist Yasmin Rowe, who will be giving a recital of music by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, Janacek, Ravel and Stevenson for the final concert of the Club's 70th season on March 21 at the Methodist Church.

Yasmin has won the EPTA UK competition and the Moray International Piano Competition followed shortly by the first prize at the Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition, and has an extensive touring record spanning Europe, Australasia, North and South America.

She regularly performs around the UK in world-class venues such as the Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Steinway Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields and St James Piccadilly, both as a soloist and with her cellist duo partner, Yelien He.

Readers may win sporting tickets

If you live in the Welshpool area you could win tickets to the opening ceremony of a prestigious sporting event but only if you join the local library.

Libraries in Wales have joined forces with the Rugby League World Cup to offer a chance to win two tickets. But residents only have until Monday, March 25, to join the local library and be eligible.

Half marathon event to be held in castle grounds

WELSHPOOL is set to get its first half marathon event this year set in the grounds of Powis Castle.

The event on June 2 is being staged at the castle and run within the National Trust property's grounds with entry forms now available.

This latest event joins a busy sporting calendar which already includes the Tour of Britain cycle race and Rally North Wales, and is the brainchild of a local fitness instructor.

"The inspiration for organising the Powis Castle Half Marathon came from taking clients through its grounds as part of their training and seeing how perfect a setting it is for a running event," said Craig Owen.

Fitness

Mr Owen is a weight loss and toning specialist but has also turned his hand to organising events.

"Alongside my coaching business, for the past two years I have been running a number of fitness events and challenges," explained Mr Owen.

"These have included a week long cycle from John O Groats to Lands End, individual fell running events, cycle days,

by **Graham Breeze**

London To Paris trips and a three-peak hike and bike event."

The Powis Castle half marathon is scheduled for Sunday, June 2 with entries now being taken by logging on to <http://www.rhinopursuits.com>.

Entry is £20 and Craig said entrants are welcome to raise money for their own good causes.

There will be water stations throughout the course and awards for top male and female finishers. Each participant will receive a Powis Castle Half Marathon medal.

To enter, send a cheque for £20 together with a stamped addressed envelope to Craig Owen, Rhino Pursuits, 1 Whitechurch Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 4DN.

For further information contact: info@rhinopursuits.com or call (07983) 417941

Youngsters cheer New Saints to victory



Some of the Welshpool High School pupils get to grips with the Welsh Premier League championship trophy on a visit to the home of The New Saints on Friday.

WELSHPOOL High School visited The New Saints Football Club on Friday night and helped cheer on the team to an emphatic 3-0 victory.

Over 50 enthusiastic children were

able to have a game of bowls followed by food, before watching the reigning Welsh Champions beat Prestatyn Town in the Welsh Premier League.

A number of the children also got

the chance to be pictured with the Corbett Sports Welsh Premier League trophy as well as first team players Chris Jones, Alex Darlington and Simon Spender.

Balloon's eye view of events at fiesta

A TWO-day fiesta will be held at the Green Dragon Inn, Buttington, on August 2 and 3, where people will be able to release balloons fitted with equipment to take pictures of the world below.

Event co-ordinator Chris Hillcox claims it is the first event of its kind and says it has already attracted interest from across Europe.

"Launching a weather balloon is a fantastic team experience. It teaches you a lot about photography, the design process, and the nature of the near space environment," said Mr Hillcox. "Co-ordinating the launch of a number of balloons will hopefully be an interesting spectacle to residents and visitors in the height of the summer."

The latex balloons are designed to burst about 18 miles up.

The camera and trackers will then fall back to earth supported by a parachute.

For more information contact 07783 903096.

Pair aid hospice

ON Saturday Sharon Davies, a chartered accountant at Cadwallader & Co, and Dianne Spencer, a sports therapist at Coed Y Gwynt Therapies, completed the 13-mile Pontesbury Potter Challenge. They raised £370 for Severn Hospice.

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If your employment is terminated then you can recover certain entitlements from the Government's Redundancy Payments Office. You are entitled to any arrears of salary for up to eight weeks, accrued but untaken holiday for up to six weeks, payment for your statutory notice period and a statutory redundancy payment. All payments have been subject to a statutory cap of £450 per week since 01 February 2013. The insolvency practitioner will ensure that you are provided with the correct forms to claim the payments.

If you are fortunate enough to keep your job then the Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 is likely to apply to the sale of the business. This means that your employment rights should automatically transfer to whichever company purchases the business or the part of the business in which you are employed.

Notwithstanding the transfer of employment rights, whatever company purchases the business will probably want to make certain changes because the current business model is clearly ineffective. That may have an impact on the retained staff. If you have any concerns in this regard then you should seek advice from an employment law expert.

Further information relating to this question is available from Nicholas Kennan, a Solicitor Advocate with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk or attend one of our FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal holds the Law Society Lexcel Quality Mark Accreditation



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WELSHPOOL

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Endurance challenge is nominated for an award

Grappling action at hall



From left, are Stephen Buckley-Robins, aka The Masked Marauder, and organiser Mike Breeze. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

WORLD heavyweight Stevie Starr will captain a Welsh side against American opponents in another night of international wrestling at Welshpool Town Hall on April 5.

Billed as 'Frantic Friday' 12 top wrestlers will be going toe to toe and the night will end with a 'Royal Rumble'.

Other top wrestlers booked to appear include The Bulk Bjorn

Brody, The Masked Sensation, Big Dog, The Welsh Wizard, Welsh champion James Mason and a ladies bout.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets are available at £12.50 for adults and £9 for children or family tickets at £35 for a family of four.

Tickets are on sale from Rainbow Records in Welshpool Market Hall or by calling 01686 640557.

by Graham Breeze

AN ENDURANCE challenge event along 35 miles of the Montgomery Canal in Shropshire and Mid Wales has reached the finals of a national competition.

The Montgomery Canal Triathlon was held for the first time last year, attracting 180 entrants who chose to complete one, two or even three stages of the challenge. It involved cycling 13 miles from Newtown to Welshpool, canoeing 11 miles from Welshpool to Llanymynech and walking or running 10 miles from Llanymynech to Frankton.

This year's event will be held on May 11. The challenge is hosted by the Friends of the Montgomery Canal in support of The Maesbury Canal Festival 2014.

Peter Richards, from the friends group, said that the challenge had been put forward for a prize in the Waterways Trust Renaissance Awards.

"We were visited by the judges last month and have won through to the finals in the tourism section."

The awards recognise exceptional projects that have turned inland waterways into desirable places for living, learning and leisure.

Mr Richards said: "The judges will return in two weeks time to see and hear more about the triathlon."

Last year's event was set off by the High Sheriff of Shropshire, John Abram.

This year one of the contestants who has signed up is the Welsh environment minister John Griffiths.

Mr Richards said: "It is a great coup to have Mr Griffiths taking part in the event and seeing for himself the canal, the restoration work that is going on and how we are attracting people to the area."

The triathlon's route follows the towpath of the canal from Newtown to Frankton.

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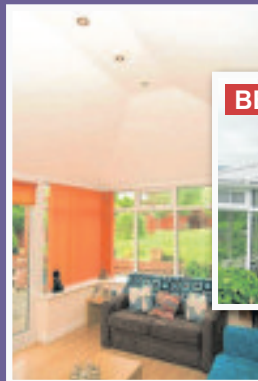
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NEWS**NEWS**

in brief

Young farmers tread the boards

MEMBERS of a young farmers club showed off their acting skills at a county contest.

Nesscliffe Young Farmers Club came first in the Shropshire YFC Drama Competition with their play *Stags and Hens* by Willy Russell.

The club was second in the West Midlands area and now goes on to the south of England final at Cheltenham in April.

They will perform their play along with Wem YFC's *The Same Jeans* at Packwood Haugh School Theatre on March 24 in aid of the Air Ambulance and The Severn Hospice.

Committee cash for village groups

CASH from the St Oswalds and Llanymynech Local Joint Committee fund is also available for community groups.

Projects eligible for a grant need to be based in Kinnerley, Knockin, Llanymynech, Pant, Oswestry Rural, and Melverley parish areas.

But the deadline is approaching and people have until May 7 to apply for first round of funding.

Garden society

OSWESTRY Garden Society's AGM is on Monday at 7.30pm in the memorial hall, to be followed by a talk on 'Opening up Garden for the NGS'.

Shop damaged after van crashes into parked cars

by Chrissy Symmons

THESE dramatic pictures show the devastating trail of destruction which was left when a van careered into two parked cars, shunting one of them into the side of a shop undergoing renovation work.

A gaping hole was left in the side of a former antiques shop in Castle Street Whittington, near Oswestry, while bricks, mangled metal and debris were left strewn across the ground. Remarkably no one was hurt and shop owner Val Walker told of her lucky escape, as she had left the building minutes before the smash.

Fire crews from Oswestry and Wellington as well as specialist rescue trucks from Wellington and Wrexham were sent to the scene just after noon on Friday. The shop was cordoned off as passers by stopped to survey the wreckage.

Mrs Walker, who lives in the house behind the store, has been busy refurbishing the shop ready to relaunch the building as a wedding boutique. Today her plans lay in tatters amid the rubble.

She said she had been standing in the room just moments before the crash.

"There was a rather loud bang," Mrs Walker said. "I thought it was a dresser falling over but it was a car coming through the wall - where we had just been standing."

Mrs Walker said she had not yet stocked the shop with wedding dresses but did have them in storage ready.

"It has taken us such a long time to completely gut and redo the shop, not to mention cost a small fortune."

Carl Franks, from the fire service, said the building was checked to make sure no one was injured inside.

Richard Ewels, spokesman for West Mercia Police, said the incident happened at 12.10pm on Friday.

He said a white Vauxhall Vivaro Power van collided with two parked cars and the side wall of the shop was struck.

He said no one was injured and the road was not blocked.



Damage caused in the incident.



An antiques shop was damaged in a crash involving three vehicles in Castle Street, Whittington. Pictures: Ian Sheppard.

Language test for pupils on centre trip

AN overnight stay at an Elizabethan residential activity centre has helped youngsters to practise their Spanish language skills.

Instead of the usual classroom activities 17 students from The Marches School, in Morda Road, Oswestry swapped their desks and notebooks for a campfire and games.

The usual routine of donning a school uniform and heading to class was instead replaced with a trip to Conover Hall near Shrewsbury.

The youngsters were encouraged to take part in various activities to test and challenge their communication skills in both English and Spanish.

And during their overnight visit they took part in a range of activities which tested their survival and problem solving skills.

This included building shelters, an assault course with low ropes, orienteering and an activity which involved a large spiders' web.

They had to use language skills to communicate and work in teams. They also carried out a Spanish interaction session with another school. At the end of the day they all gathered round the campfire to sing Spanish songs. Jessica Owen, from year seven, said: "I had a great time, I really enjoyed myself."

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NEWS

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Coaching in sports on offer to young

A FORMER farmer and youth worker will be bringing sports coaching to Oswestry for youngsters.

Adrian Dunn is launching A-Star Sports, multi-sports coaching for children aged two to 10, in Oswestry and Whitchurch.

The 32-year-old believes the venture is a natural progression from his career as a youth worker.

Mr Dunn realised he enjoyed working with youngsters after joining the Young Farmers where he helped at functions. He also supported the running of youth clubs, delivered risk awareness sessions and helped with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

Mr Dunn said: "I worked on farms as a lad and I always had an affinity with the life. So it seemed the obvious choice when I left school at 16 to go to the local agricultural college, where I spent three years before launching on a career as a dairyman."

He took up youth support work and running sports activities full-time after being badly injured at work by a cow.

After going back to university in Wrexham he looked at franchise businesses to realise his dream of working for himself.

A-Star Sports includes weekly classes, parties and holiday club places.

Council to adopt a Smart approach to foil criminals

THE latest anti-theft technology is set to be used to safeguard some of Oswestry's most valued and treasured buildings and artefacts.

Councillors have agreed security experts from Telford firm SmartWater Technology should conduct a full survey of all of the town council's buildings, sites and equipment.

The SmartWater solution is painted onto valuable equipment, containing a code which can be read under ultra-violet light.

If items are stolen the forensic marker means they can be easily traced back to the customer, while thieves and vandals are stained with the solution. Town councillors backed a move to use the SmartWater technology on the authority's items and buildings.

One of the properties the council owns is The Guildhall on Bailey Head.

The building has a collection of old documents with one dating back to the 1300s. It also houses the town museum.

Councillors agreed to spend £600 to pay for a full survey so that a 'bespoke package' can be put together and a trademark licence issued for a period of three years.

The decision was taken after they received a report recommending the product from Torfaen County Borough Council.

The Welsh borough council said it had used SmartWater on its buildings and that led to two thieves being jailed after lead was stolen from one of the council's buildings.

The SmartWater technique also caught two trespassers before they were able to steal anything from a council owned site.

Oswestry Town Mayor Martin Bennett backed the move at an amenities meeting.

He said he hoped using the technology would reduce the council's insurance payments and said it may also protect it from a scrap metal theft similar to the one which occurred at the Cambrian Heritage Railway site at Llyncllys earlier this year.

Town council facilities manager Glenys Davies said: "When someone subscribes to SmartWater their scientists will create a unique forensic solution that is registered to your home or business."

Set up by Shropshire Council, Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Enterprise, the sessions offer young business-minded people help on starting out in business.

by Graham Breeze**Club aims to aid businesses**

BUDDING entrepreneurs are being encouraged to join a business start-up club in Oswestry.

The club was launched last October to help people aged 18 to 30 establish their own enterprises. Bosses behind the scheme hope it will help launch 25 new businesses within 12 months.

Advice on branding, pitching and networking has been delivered at a series of seminars. Mike Owen, Shropshire Council's cabinet member with responsibility for business support, said: "These clubs are proving to be a great success."

"I'd encourage more young people to take advantage of the free advice on offer."

"They also offer an excellent opportunity for young people to meet like-minded individuals."

Set up by Shropshire Council, Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Enterprise, the sessions offer young business-minded people help on starting out in business.

Clothes scheme to aid fund

Kristine Griffiths at the clothes collection point in Wilkinsons in Oswestry. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

STAFF at an Oswestry store are hoping to turn unwanted clothes into cash for a national cancer charity.

Wilkinson in New Street has set up clothes collection points in the stores and are asking customers and staff to donate their unwanted clothing. For every tonne of items collected, at least £300 will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Macmillan is the store's regional charity of the year and the appeal will run until April 30. The Bags of Support project is running at 102 Wilkinson stores.

Wilkinsons is looking for good quality high street clothes, shoes, belts, accessories and household linen as donations.

Duncan Tipton, store manager at Oswestry, said: "We really hope our loyal customers can help us with this fundraiser, as we believe everyone must have at least one item of clothing they can recycle."

"Whether it's a coat you don't wear anymore or something the kids have grown out of, it can all be recycled for Macmillan."

Violinist in concert as thank you to hospital

A VIOLINIST'S latest concert to say thank-you to the medical staff who gave him a new lease of life will be held in Alberbury tomorrow (Friday).

Violin teacher and composer James Ayres, 79, from Gobowen, had a severe heart attack three years ago which left him in hospital for two weeks.

He feared that his days of playing music were over – until staff at Wrexham Maelor Hospital fitted him with a resynchronization defibrillator – a tiny, battery operated device to help his heart beating safely.

"I really wanted to do something to say thank you to the hospital as I could not thank the people there enough," he said.

My Ayres has organised a concert at the Alberbury Church starting at 7.30pm.

The Oswestry Choral Society will perform and there will also be performances by the Fiddlesticks group from Shrewsbury.

The soloists will be Mr Ayres and his daughter, Helen Beers.

Tickets are £8 for adults, £5 for children or £20 for a family ticket. They are available on the door or by contacting (01691) 652655.

All the proceeds will go to the Wrexham Hospital's arrhythmia and cardiac failure team.



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with Drawer in Antique
finished Waxed Pine
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NEWS

in brief

Call for review of tourism office site

CALLS have been made for the relocation of Oswestry's town centre tourist information centre amid concerns about the number of people using it.

The centre is currently based in Oswestry Heritage and Exhibition Centre in Church Terrace.

But some town councillors have called for it to be moved after new figures showed only 411 people visited the tourist information centre during January and it received only 25 e-mail inquiries in the month.

Councillor Steve Haworth said the figures were 'disappointing' while Councillor Saffron Rainey added: "It is just a shame that not more people are using it. There are definitely some issues with this information centre. We should consider over the course of the year the best place for it."

Town to spend £1,600 on plants

MORE than £1,600 will be spent on planting in Ellesmere.

About £200 will be spent on plants by the Town Hall and more than £1,400 will be spent on plants in the town centre.

Assistant town clerk Joanne Butterworth told a meeting of Ellesmere Town Council that the planting will be carried out by Eastwick Plant Centre.

Group gets pop-up stalls for market hall to revive trade

AN instant pop-up market is to be launched in Ellesmere to help bring trade back into the heart of the town.

From March 25 the town's Tuesday market will be run by community group All Together Ellesmere on behalf of the town council.

With support from Shropshire Council's Market Town Regeneration Fund, the organisation has bought 12 pop up marquees which are available to hire.

Councillor Ann Hartley said: "This is a very exciting and positive time both for the market and for Ellesmere. "We have purchased these lightweight market stalls which are easy

by Graham Breeze

Right-to-buy tips for farms

FARMING tenants in Shropshire and Mid Wales have been urged to negotiate for the best deal if they are among the increasing number of farmers being offered the chance to buy their farms.

The advice comes from farm tenancy specialist Philip Meade of Davis Meade Property Consultants at Oswestry who is representing a number of tenants who have been given the chance to buy their farms as sitting tenants.

An increasing number of farming tenants are being offered the chance to buy their farms as landlords and councils look to sell their farms while the land market is buoyant.

Mr Meade said: "Many councils are seeking a sale because they don't think the return on the farm asset is good enough and in these times of austerity they can get rid of the asset and use the money to fill pension holes, repair infrastructure or build hospitals."

to assemble and can be dismantled quickly. "The idea is that they will be used inside the market and are available for hire for events like the food festival and the carnival. It's a really good scheme. The market stalls currently in use are old and heavy and are not user friendly. Now we have these new light, bright market stalls.

"The idea is to attract new traders and start utilising the market hall a lot more. It's a wonderful old building but at the moment it's whittling away into just a venue for the Tuesday market.

"We want to start using the venue for different events. By hiring out these market stalls we can fund other events in the hall and also build a fresh new market which will attract people into the town."

Lincoln Mullen, from All Together Ellesmere, said: "The plan is to make both the market and the market hall bigger and better than ever.

"We want to hold events like karate classes, film showings and flower shows all inside the venue.

"We plan to fund this is by hiring out these marquees to traders so they can join the market. However, people who are holding events in and around the town are also welcome to hire them as well.

"They are absolutely brilliant, suitable for all types of ground and can be connected together so they are suitable for events of all sizes."

Sculptures are the works



Seen here, with the cow, is the Iron Works Centres creator Clive Knowles, right, with David Walker, from Marstons.

A STRIKING hand sculptured cow produced in Oswestry has been chosen by brewers Marstons to stand outside a new £2.5 million pub in Telford.

Inspired by the large Ankole Watusi cows of Africa and created in fabricated steel at the British Ironworks Centre in Oswestry, the cow will stand outside the newly opened Grazing Cow at Lawley.

The British Ironworks Centre, based in Oswestry is responsible for the largest and

most diverse collection of decorative Ironwork in the country.

Created and collected from all over the globe, the centre is home to an array of life sized, wild safari animals as well as, a marvellous collection of rural, farmyard and domestic animals, sculptures and topiary.

Mr Knowles: "We love the challenge and are now looking to provide Marston's with an enormous cockerel, for another establishment due to open on the Isle of Man."

Planting of tree to celebrate milestone

A VILLAGE churchyard has been chosen as the site for one of 60 trees being planted around the UK to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Maidenhair tree, a ginkgo biloba, will be planted later this month in the churchyard at St John the Evangelist Church in Colemere, near Ellesmere.

A story about the tree and the local area will feature in a book which will be given to the Queen.

A spokeswoman for the Colemere Organising Committee said the species was chosen because it is the oldest surviving type of tree in the world and can live for centuries.

In 2009 the Queen planted a ginkgo seedling at Kew Gardens to celebrate their 250th anniversary.

A planting ceremony will take place in Colemere on March 23 amid a celebration in the churchyard organised by Shropshire Wildlife and the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson and the Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Shropshire, Colonel Edmund Thewles, will be among the guests and the Vice Lord-Lieutenant will plant the sapling, which has been donated by the Tree Council. The event will run between 11am and 3pm, with the planting at 1.30pm.

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NEWS

Birthday party as nursery turns 10

TO celebrate its 10th Birthday, and to thank all of the people who have helped to make it such a huge success, Footsteps Nursery at Walford College will be holding an open day in Oswestry on March 23 between 10am and 3pm.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Oswestry will be present, and there will be activities such as face painting and Peppa Pig will be bringing along a birthday cake at 10.30am. People will also have the opportunity to take a look around, and find out more about the nursery.

The nursery first opened its doors on March 17, 2003 and since then it has grown and developed to meet the changing needs of the families it caters for. Today, with 23 staff and two cooks on site, all fully qualified to Level 3 in childcare and several holding management qualifications, including NVQ Level 4 in management and a BA in management and leadership, it is fully equipped to give children from three months up to the age of four years the very best possible care.

The nursery also runs an after school club for children from Holy Trinity, Meadows and Our Lady and Saint Oswald's schools and a holiday club for 12s and unders. Contact www.wnsc.ac.uk/footsteps or call 01691 688007.

Big move for stalwart staff

THEY have worked at a care home in Shropshire for a collective 200 years – now these eight members of staff are looking forward to their big move to a new £6.9 million complex in the next few weeks.

Among the eight staff at Fairholme Care Home in Oswestry are Heather Ellis and Sue Rogers, who have worked at the home for 30 and 29 years respectively. And not far behind in the long service stakes are colleagues Liz Dorricott, who has notched up 25 years' service, and Sue Jones, Diane Jones, Julie Jones, Pat Morris and Pat Thomas who have all worked for 24 years at the care home.

by Chrissy Symmons

Artist's contest entry praised

A STUDENT from north Shropshire has been highly commended for his artwork in a national competition.

Ellesmere College student Freddie Houlder, 16, was praised for his efforts in the Living Edge Schools Arts Competition which was held at the Hexagon Suite of the Lowry Arts Centre in Manchester.

After final judging took place at the weekend Freddie was one of only three people recognized in the under 16 category as judges pick one winner and two highly commended pieces.

The competition saw a record turnout with each age category possessing the maximum 17 pieces of artwork.

Olivia Fisher, 17 and also from the college, was the other pupil from Shropshire selected to take part in the final.

Their art work was judged by a panel of 10 judges made up from practicing artists and art dealers.

All eight are now set to move across town to the new Fairholme home in Shrewsbury Road when it opens next month, replacing the existing home on Morda Road.

And they have put the 'fantastic' team spirit and togetherness among staff down as the reason for all of them staying loyal to the home for so long.

Mrs Dorricott said: "I have always enjoyed working with the elderly and that has never diminished. We have a fantastic team here. We have got good, loyal staff who are incredibly reliable."

"We are really excited about the move to the new site. It will be so nice to have a lovely space. It has been fantastic here in Morda Road but we need to move on and progress. We will take the nice atmosphere from here into the new place."

David Coull, chief executive of Coverage Care which manages the home, said: "The care sector is known for its high staff turnover, but we are bucking the trend with many of our 1,000 or so staff having worked with us for 10, 20 or 30 years. It's fantastic to have so many staff at Fairholme who have been there so long – their knowledge, skills and experience benefits not only the people we care for but also our newer staff."

Work on the new site started back in October 2011 and has been completed on schedule. It will include 88 large en-suite bedrooms, extensive communal and dining areas and private gardens.



Long serving staff at Fairholme care home in Oswestry, back, from left, Sue Rogers, Liz Dorricott, Pat Thomas, Heather Ellis and Sue Jones. Front, from left, Julie Jones, Pat Morris and Diane Jones. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

Children learn all about life as a pilot

CHILDREN in Ellesmere have been learning about the life of a pilot – while sitting on board a helicopter.

Lower School pupils from Ellesmere College got the experience when pilots from RAF Shawbury dropped in.

The chopper landed on the school golf course at the site off Ellesmere Road.

The visit from Captain Phillip Hughes and Captain David Evans was part of the survive and thrive programme at the school, which aims to offer challenges.

Dominic Freer-Carmichael, 12, had a chance to get in the helicopter, and said: "Seeing a helicopter landing close up, speaking to the pilots and actually sitting in the helicopter was amazing."

"Both pilots were really nice and they answered all our questions."

Eve Davies, also 12, added: "It was really nice to see the pilots and the have a look around the helicopter."

The enrichment programme includes activities in arts, sports and media which take place every Wednesday afternoon.

Michael Coats, head of IT, said: "We see helicopters flying over the school every day and thanks to the RAF we managed to arrange one to drop in."

"It's great for the pupils to see an operational helicopter first hand."



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NEWS

in brief

**Sales will boost
workhouse fund**

VOLUNTEERS working to restore and redevelop a Victorian workhouse at Llanfyllin say a series of regular openings and car boot sales will be held to raise money for the project.

The trustees of Llanfyllin's historic Y Dolydd workhouse say visitors will have more frequent opportunities to see the building and admission will be free.

The first fortnightly car boot will be on Sunday, starting at 10am.

The charge for a pitch will be £5 or £10 indoors. Call Lois Bosworth on 07753 940845.

The first of a series of book fairs, which will coincide with the boot sales, will be on March 17 and the second on March 31.

**Tickets sell well
for cricket event**

OSWESTRY Cricket Club has almost sold out of tickets for a fundraising event in the summer.

The club's annual Royal Ascot Ladies Day event has become one of the biggest fundraisers of previous years and one of the most popular of its social events at the pavilion at the Morda Road ground.

This year organisers are hoping to hire a larger marquee so more people can enjoy the day.

Tickets, priced £50, are available by telephoning 07711178180.

Feast on the menu as senior citizens enjoy school dinners



Simon Walker delivers meals for Veronica Hargrave and Pamela Childs at Whittington Senior Citizens' Club.



Pupil Henry Walker with his mates, tucking into the school meals.



Pamela Childs serves out the meals at the Senior Citizens' Club. Pictures: Peter Flemmich.

THE generation gap disappeared in Whittington last week when pensioners sat down to school dinners.

The two dozen senior citizens at Whittington Senior Citizens' Club – the oldest, 96 – tucked into their roast chicken dinner followed by apple crunch and custard, at their headquarters in Station Road.

Half a mile down the road 75 children at the village primary school – the youngest just four – tucked into the same roast dinner and apple crunch with equal gusto.

The only difference was that will the youngsters had their dinner served on plas-

tic plates while the pensioners had china crockery and glasses for their water.

It is the latest link between Whittington Church of England Primary School and the senior citizens club and a triumph for the school catering staff who received plaudits.

And it is also helping the school to balance its dinner budget.

From April all schools across Shropshire will be responsible for their own school meals budget.

School head Mr Shaun Sibley, said: "For many years our school has had a very close relationship with the senior citizens in

Whittington. Pupils have performed violin concerts, sung songs and our year six children are invited every year to a leavers' tea with the senior citizens.

"Two senior citizens come to help in school every week during our 'Muddy Mondays outdoor environment' session with the reception class and every year the senior citizens present a 'Good Citizenship Award' to one of our year six pupils during the leavers' service in the village church."

Now, one Wednesday a month, two members of staff take the school meals in an insulated box to the senior citizens hall where the members sit down to a roast dinner and desert for just £4. Club committee members

help to serve the lunch and wash the crockery and cutlery.

Mr Phil Morris, 86, who had roast and boiled potatoes, carrots, cabbage and swede with his roast chicken and gravy, said: "It's an excellent dinner and we can also enjoy fellowship and companionship with each other. Many older people live by themselves and this is a chance to get together."

Mrs Glen Thomas and Mrs Joan Morris travel from Oswestry and Maesbury to enjoy the monthly lunch.

Mrs Morris, 67, said: "We come to Whittington to enjoy line dancing on Thursdays and so decided to support the lunch club. It's a wonderful meal, we can't fault it."

Quiz night to bring in funds for cause

A QUIZ night will be held at the Ironworks in Oswestry Tuesday, to raise money for the charity VICTA, which supports blind and partially sighted children, young people and their families.

The quiz will be held in the upstairs function room of the Ironworks and will start at 7.30pm.

For more information contact the Ironworks on (01691) 679123.

VICTA was founded in the late 1980s by a group of parents with visually impaired children who came together to support each other.

They offer opportunities for blind and visually impaired children to go on outings to places such as zoos and museums, as well as providing grants for equipment and services which will help them develop.

Each year they host a family weekend, giving parents and children the opportunity to meet other families and enjoy workshops and outdoor activities.

Golf academy

ELLESMERE College has launched a new golf academy after the successes of its sports academies. It will run in partnership with the Keith Williams Golf Academy at Hawkstone Park.

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FARMING

Farmland price surge may not be good news



The surge in farmland prices could impact on the amount that landlords charge for rent.

A SURGE in the price of farmland is not necessarily good news for farmers, a Shropshire university lecturer has warned.

Charles Cowap, principal lecturer in land management at Harper Adams University, Edmond, near Newport, said higher values may lead to landlords increasing rent charges.

Latest figures from The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors show the average price of an acre of farmland in the West Midlands reached £7,625 in the second half of 2012 – a record high.

And the institute concludes values are expected to continue to rise, especially for larger blocks of commercial farmland.

Mr Cowap said: "If you're sitting on land which you own outright the news is probably good.

"Your assets are growing in value and should enable you to access short-term and long-term finance on reasonable terms – and with the short-term increase in tax allowances for new machinery this is a time to seriously consider bringing forward long-term investment plans in good kit.

"But if you're paying rent for land which somebody else owns, the news may not be so good.

"Although farm profit is an important factor in setting rent levels, it is inevitable that an owner will have regard to the underlying value of the land asset itself – and will therefore

seek a decent return on that investment when the rent comes to be reviewed. And of course if you are buying, quality isn't going to come cheap."

While the increase in prices is primarily due to demand from commercial farmers looking to expand, other factors also come into play.

Principal lecturer Mark Simcock added: "We are inevitably drawn to speculate as to the cause of these trends.

"The Investment Property Database's Rural Property Index concluded that the buyers of farmland see it as a safe haven with investors looking for a less volatile option, which is something they have sought following our recent economic troubles."

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NEWS

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£19,000 on offer for parish projects

AROUND £19,000 is up for grabs for community projects.

The Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee will be holding its last funding meeting of the financial year next Thursday, at Hordley Village Hall from 7pm.

The committee has a five-figure budget to spend on projects within the area covering the parishes of Whittington, West Felton, Hordley, Ruyton XI Towns and Baschurch.

The March meeting will focus on some of the previously funded projects in the area. There will also be an opportunity to speak to the policing officer and a Shropshire Fire and Rescue representative.

Groups interested in funding from the Five Perry Parishes LJC need to apply before June 7. All applications received in the next round will be taken to the July meeting.

Shropshire councillor Aggie Caesar Homden, LJC chairman, said: "These meetings provide a chance for people to tell councillors their views on local issues and services and to allow us to use our budget to benefit the local community."

For more details call Corrie Davies, the council's community action officer, on (01691) 677306 or visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/communityworking.nsf

Youngsters' self-propelled car scoops technology prize

by Graham Breeze

BUDDING designers spent a day creating a self-propelled vehicle to win a technology prize.

Borderland Rotary Club invited youngsters from six schools in Oswestry to take part in its annual Technology Tournament.

The aim was to get young people to work as a team to design a working machine which had to meet exact specifications using limited materials.

It was hoped the event would give youngsters an insight into the workplace and the demand of time as they worked against the clock to achieve the set tasks.



Adcote School, winners of the Advanced competition, test their machine.

This year it took place in The Marches School, in Morda Road, and 18 teams of four pupils had to work together to make a self-propelled vehicle using power from a falling 20gm weight to drive the wheels.

The car was then tested on a ramp, points given for the distance it travelled as well as for the team's decision-making processes, presentation and design portfolio.

The assembled models were tested and judged by Chris Lakey the chief design engineer for Fullwood Ltd local manufacturers of high-tech Dairy Plant. The company was the principal sponsor of this year's event.

Borderland Rotary President Michael Tomley, said: "Once again I am impressed by the students' innovation. We may be looking at some of our design engineers of the future."

Will Harris, leader of graphics at The Marches School, said: "It is a great opportunity for students to develop their team-building skills and to put their problem solving abilities to the test."

During lunchtime, students were given a presentation by Rotarian Cliff Wood about the Bloodhound SSC Project. As an Ambassador for the Project, Mr Wood provided students with an insight into the design and build of a car that will travel at 1,000 mph and plans to attempt to break the land speed record in South Africa.



Elaine Channon, Mayor of Oswestry, with, right to left, Megan Heley, Emma Jones, Nick Munro and Jonathan Sanchi, from Lakelands School.

Axe to fall on travel branch in Oswestry

THE Oswestry branch of travel giant Thomas Cook is set to close.

The company, which also owns Co-operative Travel, revealed that it could close 195 of its high street travel agencies with the Oswestry branch among those earmarked.

There are three members of staff at Oswestry's Cross Street branch.

Joanna Wild, managing director of the Thomas Cook Co-operative retail network, said: "As a large retailer we regularly review our network to make sure we have the right stores in the right places for our customers and regrettably there are occasions where we need to close certain branches."

"Following careful consideration, we have announced that Thomas Cook Oswestry store is proposed to close and we are working with those colleagues who are affected."

"We'd like to thank both our colleagues and customers for the commitment and understanding during this process."

Councillor Martin Bennett, Oswestry mayor, said: "I am disappointed as this adds pressure on Cross Street. We on the Oswestry joint economic board will be investing as much as we can with the hope of bringing the shop unit back into use as quickly as possible."

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On the Road

Your monthly motoring special

News and views from Shropshire's dealers compiled by motoring editor Sharon Walters

Freelander 2 Limited Edition will stand out from the crowd

To celebrate March registration and the '13' registration plate, Shukers Land Rover has launched a Shukers Freelander 2 GS Limited Edition. Presented in three colour ways; Santorini Black, Orkney Grey and Fuji White, the Shukers Limited Edition is sure to stand out from the crowd.

The specification includes 18 inch alloy wheels, Design Pack, LED Signature Headlights, front fog Lamps and privacy glass to ensure a distinctive yet purposeful presence

on the road. The vehicle is available in either manual or automatic transmission and also benefits from a full size spare wheel.

This Limited Edition vehicle will be available for viewing at the Shukers Shrewsbury and Ludlow showrooms.

Prices start from £28,995 for the Shukers Freelander 2 GS Limited Edition Manual in Fuji White.

● For more information, please contact the Shukers Land Rover Sales Team at Shrewsbury: 01743 450045 and Ludlow: 01584 877231 or go to www.shukers.com and click on 'Offers'.



Sales executives David Jarrold and Adrian Lenc with a Freelander 2 GS Limited Edition vehicle



Mercedes-Benz A-Class wins prestigious AM New Car of the Year

Win for the new A-Class just weeks after arriving in UK

The new A-Class is already an award-winner picking up 'AM New Car of the Year' at the prestigious AM Awards.

Tim Rose, managing editor of AM, said: "The new A-Class has the style, dynamism and technology that's required to punch its weight in this highly competitive sub-segment. It's an all-round performer and just the product that Mercedes-Benz dealers need to entice new customers into their showrooms."

The announcement of the win for the new A-Class has added to the momentum behind the new model which has been met by significant demand not

just in the UK but throughout Europe, with 90,000 pre-orders for the car ahead of its market introduction.

Marcus Breitschwerdt, President and CEO of Mercedes-Benz UK commented: "This is a significant win that reflects not only our investment in innovation but also our commitment to listening to existing and potential customers and giving them exactly what they want."

"We have an exciting year ahead for the new A-Class, and this is a great start."

"From the innovative interactive marketing campaign through the style and technology packed into the car itself, to how our network is marketing and sell-

ing this great car, everything about the way we're approaching the A-Class is new. This award is great recognition of those efforts."

First deliveries of the new A-Class commenced in January following on from a series of innovative and vibrant regional roadshows throughout 2012, raising awareness among potential buyers and demonstrating its bold new direction as well as its advanced comfort, safety and dynamic systems fitted as standard.

Prices start at £18,945 on-the-road. In what was a successful evening for Mercedes-Benz, the innovative My Dash system also won an Award – being named 'Best Digital Initiative'.



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Official Government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the A-Class range: urban 32.5(8.7)-52.3(5.4), extra urban 45.6(6.2)-72.4(3.9), combined 39.2(7.2)-62.8(4.5). CO2 emissions: 168-118 g/km. **Whilst this offer is only available through Mercedes-Benz Finance, we do arrange finance on behalf of other finance companies as well.** Model featured: Mercedes-Benz A180 BlueEFFICIENCY SE at £20,150 on the road. (on-the-road price includes VAT, delivery, 12 months' Road Fund Licence, number plates, first registration fee and fuel). *Based on a Mercedes-Benz Agility Agreement. Example based on 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. **Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. Includes optional purchase payment and purchase activation fee. Quotations available on request for alternative contract lengths and mileages. This finance campaign is available on selected new A-Class models ordered before 31st March 2013, and registered before 30th June 2013. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other published offer from the retailer and is subject to availability. Terms & conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to press (02/13). Credit provided subject to status by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Limited, MK15 8BA.

Car launch with a bang

With excitement for the new Vauxhall ADAM launch at its peak, Greenhous Cars and Commercials are hosting an event throughout this week in Telford Town Centre to celebrate. The event finishes on March 17 and involves each ADAM model; the JAM, SLAM and GLAM along with the brand new Cascada and the chance to enter an exclusive competition.

The largest Vauxhall retailer in the county is inviting customers to join in with proceedings, including a fully interactive display and the chance to get up close and personal with the latest offering from Vauxhall. The display is positioned in Sherwood Square, Telford Shopping Centre.

Vauxhall's latest model is set to make waves in the industry as it enters a brand new 'supermini' sector. With a modern approach on the urban-city car teamed with over a million individual combinations, the ADAM sets itself apart from its more retro-styled competition.

With competitively low price points combined with top of the range interior features, the ADAM targets a younger, more fashion-forward market. It comes in three different trim packs: Jam (fashionable and affordable), Glam (comfortable, classic) and Slam (sporty) giving it versatility whilst ensuring its appeal to a wider audience.

The ADAM's highly advanced, all-in-one multimedia system- IntelliLink, offers Smartphone connectivity allowing the user to step into their own personal world of music, photos, videos and maps via the 7-inch

colour touch screen on the ADAM dashboard.

Richard Potts, sales director at Greenhous believes the event in Telford is the perfect way for customers to view the ADAM for the first time. "The Vauxhall ADAM is incredibly exciting for Greenhous. Because it is a brand new release, people will be completely new to it and our display allows customers to fully interact with the car.

"The ADAM is unique and the focus on personalisation means the customer can have a real input into the final design. At the event, people will not only get to configure the ADAM to suit their own style, but can also win the chance to test drive the car for a week. Customers can enter this competition by visiting Greenhous at the event."

Exclusive

However, the prizes don't stop there and a major competition to win the ADAM for a whole year was launched at the beginning of the event. All people need to do is like Greenhous on Facebook by May 31st to be instantly entered into a draw to win. This is exclusive to Greenhous and will be the biggest prize the company has ever given away.

Richard concluded: "We are incredibly excited about the launch of the ADAM. We have been preparing for the release for many months now and the event in Telford is the perfect way to start things off with a bang. We have enjoyed sharing this fantastic new product with the public and hope many more people come to visit us this weekend."



This latest model is set to make waves in the motor industry



The ADAM is unique with the emphasis on personalisation - there won't be many exactly the same



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New Kuga from Ford is a winner all-round



I know you're supposed to choose your family transport with sensible features like boot space and economy at the top of the list – and driving pleasure near the bottom, driving along with alloy wheel options and the cupholder count.

Well, Ford wasn't listening when this agenda was published and the new Kuga, a fresh take on the successful first version, goes straight to

By Ian Donaldson

the top of the class for anyone who doesn't want to lose the fun of driving, moving from a nimble hatch to family holdall.

And, after listening to the people who bought Kuga Mk1, the newcomer is roomier in the back and boot (but a tiny bit narrower and lower) and actually cheaper, model for model than the car it replaces. That shows both the pace of progress in making things for less, and per-

haps, reflects the sobering fact that today's new Ford faces a formidable 38 rivals, when only 19 threatened nine years ago.

Still, it's worth Ford giving the new Kuga its best shot. When the first ones arrived in 2008 the market for SUVs was modest; today the sports utility vehicle is the third largest new car sector.

And a highly profitable one, I'll wager, with buyers happy to add to the bottom line with tasty extras.

Prices now start at £20,895, more than £1,000 less than the last model's entry level version. That buys a 1.6 litre petrol Kuga in Zetec trim and front-wheel drive.

Only one in ten buyers are likely to take this route, preferring instead to head up the price list for a diesel with all four wheels driven. The range tops out at £29,795 for the automatic diesel in Titanium X trim, but the non-X Titanium test car is the predicted biggest seller.

That costs £355 less than before but adds a little more power and economy, along with easily folded rear seats (a single lever's tug each side), emergency assist, which calls 999 if you can't after a crash, hill start assist, which keeps the brakes on for a moment as you foot moves to the accelerator pedal, and enhanced cruise control with speed limiter.

Pay £700 more and you'll amaze your friends by opening the boot with a waggle of a foot beneath the rear bumper, where sensors detect your request and play Open Sesame. It closes the same way and would save you dropping arm-loads of shopping on a wet supermarket car park. Cheaper to buy less shopping, though.

Parked alongside the old model, the 2013 Kuga looks sharper and more interesting, with the same wraparound headlight treatment you'll find on a Focus, which also, more subtly, donates the platform the car is built on and which makes it so good to drive.

Connected

Perhaps the opposition (newcomers from Honda and Toyota with CR-V and RAV4, respectively, spring to mind) lack the simple joy of driving that modern Fords almost always provide, and which the height and extra ground clearance of the Kuga does little to dilute.

The test car's 161bhp diesel pushed the Kuga along with poise and verve, its steering feeling utterly connected to the road and gears ready to click into the next ratio like something more Silverstone than Surbiton.

A brief foray off-road proved the Kuga will cope with flinty tracks and grassland churned gently towards mud by fellow Kugarists. A gymkhana parking field will hold no horrors.

It managed the road test route with a certain firmness, that was oddly, but pleasantly, lacking in a cheaper, less powerful diesel (£23,395 in Zetec trim) that also felt sweeter under the bonnet and hardly slower than its more powerful sibling. The bargain of the range, perhaps?



Extra ground clearance is a bonus



You can open and close the boot by wagging your foot under the rear bumper



The Kuga is a joy to drive

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(paid by Ford) **4.9% APR***

Representative example: New Ford Ka Edge 1.2 69PS manual 3dr		
Cash price	£8,975.00	Balance of amount payable £7,118.00
Cash deposit	£1,685.89	Total amount payable £9,553.89
Deposit allowance	£750	24 monthly payments £89.00
Total deposit	£2,435.89	Term 25 months
Charge for credit	£558.89	GMFV/Optional final payment £4,962.00
Finance facility fee	£10.00	Mileage per annum 9,000
Purchase fee	£10.00	Rate of interest 4.27%

APR Representative 4.9%*

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg: Lowest: (l/100km): FORD Focus 1.0 EcoBoost Stop-Start (125PS) 5 Door: urban 44.8 (6.3), extra urban 67.3 (4.2), combined 56.5 (5.0). Official CO₂ emission 115g/km. Highest FORD Mondeo 1.6 Duratec EcoBoost (160PS) Stop-Start Saloon: urban 34.4 (8.2), extra urban 52.3 (5.4), combined 44.1 (6.4). Official CO₂ emission 149g/km. *Finance subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Freeport Ford Credit. Facility fee (where applicable) is payable with first payment. Deposit allowance only available when financed with Ford Credit. Purchase fee (where applicable) is payable with GMFV if you wish to own the vehicle at the end of the agreement. Terms and conditions apply, please ask for full details. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only.

Follow us on



On the
Road

Peugeot 208 leading popularity for 13-plate

Peugeot dealerships are well-placed with an extensive range of models that includes hatchbacks, saloons, SWs, people carriers, crossovers, compact MPVs, coupé cabriolets and sport coupés, plus a comprehensive four model van range.

The most popular model is the Peugeot 208, launched in the summer last year and already a UK sales success as a 'Top Ten' performer in January, now with over 28,000 orders received since launch in the UK and some 300,000 already produced. With a stylish design, low CO2, great performance and outstanding economy, there is the imminent prospect of luxurious and performance models coming soon in the form of the new 208 XY and the eagerly awaited 208 GTI.



The 208 is already a UK sales success and a 'Top Ten' performer

Standard

The latest 208 model is the 208 Intuitive which comes with Park Assist system as standard to take the hassle out of parking.

With the press of a button, it can measure and guide the driver into a parking space, taking control of the steering to accomplish a perfect manoeuvre, alerting the driver to any likely incidents too.

Peugeot director of marketing, Morgan Lecoupeur said: "Bearing in mind the 208 Intuitive can park itself, comes with satellite navigation and a glass panoramic roof, it is luxury at a great price."

The 208 Intuitive is now in UK showrooms, with a choice of three engine variants – a 1.2-litre VTI 82 petrol, a 1.4-litre HDi 70 and 1.6-litre e-HDi 92 diesel – with prices starting at £14,245 for a 3-door VTI.

While the '13-plate registrations were the first identity on the 208 XY and GTI, available to order from the March 1 and available in showrooms from April 18, March is also the busiest time of the year for new car registrations.

Consumers can also benefit from Peugeot's unique and highly popular 'Just Add Fuel' offer which has recently been extended to include 21 year old drivers.

Just Add Fuel® provides three-

years' servicing, roadside assistance, warranty, road tax and insurance all for one monthly fixed payment and fixed over three years.

Improved and with variable inputs, Just Add Fuel® prices remain very competitive and it is now possible to get a brand new Peugeot 208 1.0-litre VTI Access from just £159 a month.

Just Add Fuel Offers® include: 107 3dr Active; 208 3dr Access 1.0-litre VTI; 208 3dr Access 1.0-litre VTI; 308 Access 1.4-litre VTI; 308 CC Access 1.6-litre VTI; 308 Allure 1.6-litre VTI; 5008 Allure 1.6-litre VTI.

● More information is available at www.peugeot.com
Terms and conditions apply

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the 107 range: Urban 52.3 – 55.4 (5.4 – 5.1), Extra Urban 70.6 – 74.3 (4.1 – 3.8), Combined 62.8 – 65.7 (4.5 – 4.3) and CO2 104 – 99.

*On the Road prices quoted include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle, Excise Duty and £55 Government First Registration Fee. ^Passport Personal Lease: A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. Passport Personal Lease contract examples. 107 Access initial rental £1,999, optional final rental of £2,369. 46 monthly rentals payable. Annual mileage 6000 miles. Excess mileage charges may apply. If you choose to pay off the optional final rental at the end of contract, you can keep the car but will not own it – you will pay an annual rental equivalent to one of your monthly. However, car ownership is possible with Passport – ask us for details. Offers apply to vehicles ordered by 31st March 2013. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.

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New 13 Reg Kia Rio 1.25 2



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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100 km) for the Kia range of vehicles are between: Urban: 26.6 (10.6) – 80.7 (3.5), Extra urban: 41.5 (6.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 34.4 (8.2) – 88.3 (3.2). CO2 emissions are 195 – 85 g/km.

7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. Models shown: Rio 2 1.25 84bhp 5-speed manual @ £10,495 OTR including customer saving of £1400; new cee'd 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £13,495 OTR including metallic paint at £465 and including customer saving of £900. *4.9% APR finance with a 10% minimum deposit on all new cee'd hatchback models. No minimum deposit required on Rio available on Kia Personal Contract Purchase on all new Rio 2 models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) Pay the GFV (Guaranteed Future Value) to own the vehicle (ii) Part exchange of the vehicle, where equity is available or (iii) return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. **We pay £98 of the £99 insurance offer available from Kia Motors Insurance Services for drivers aged 21-80, at participating Kia dealers excluding Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Terms, conditions and acceptance criteria apply go to www.kia.co.uk/insurance for full details. The true rated premium of any policy written on this scheme must not exceed £1500. Kia Motor Insurance Services is arranged and administered by Equity Direct Broking Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. FSA Registered Number 490061.

On the Road



Members of the William A. Lewis Nissan team: Neil Scutts, Joel Terry, Tina Stevenson and Phil Rawding

Nissan growing year on year, says the Shrewsbury dealer

Shrewsbury's Nissan dealership is going from strength to strength.

It is exactly two years since William A. Lewis opened the new Nissan dealership on their Featherbed Lane site at Harlescott, Shrewsbury.

"Business is really coming into its own and growing year on year," said sales controller Neil Scutts.

"There's a buoyancy and positiveness in the dealership and people are really pleased to see the brand back in town. More and more people are becoming aware of us as our reputation spreads and an increasing number are taking advantage of our exceptional new car offers."

He said one of the best deals was 0% finance on the Nissan Qashqai and Juke crossover vehicles. Recent figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) showed that the Qashqai was the fifth best selling car in the country.

"Juke is the baby brother of the Qashqai and a really striking looking car built by Nissan from a concept model," said Neil.

"Qashqai and Juke are bringing a lot of new customers to the brand and as a result of these offers I am pleased to say that both vehicles are selling very well."

He also announced a limited stock of new Notes which

had been reduced in price by a massive £2,055. "We are able to offer this fantastic saving on the outgoing model as a new version of the Note is due at the end of the year."

He said the Featherbed Lane dealership had a broad range of Nissan used product, typically from £3,995, all with a 12 month Cared4 Warranty.

The four pledges are: Detailed checks; minimum 12 months warranty; exchange promise; You + Nissan Care commitment.

Financed

With regard to finance, Neil explained: "If the purchase of a car is financed through Nissan Finance, we will give two free services with the car."

"We can assure any customer, whether they purchased their Nissan from here or elsewhere, of a warm welcome. Similarly, any customer who hasn't dealt with us for some time."

"William A. Lewis Nissan offers competitive servicing propositions to any Nissan owner in the Shrewsbury area who wants their car maintained by experts."

He added that services and test drives could be booked on 01743 454141 Monday to Friday 9.00-6.00; Saturday 10.00-5.00; Sunday 11.00-4.00 (sales hours).

Interest in new

The first Volvo V40 R-Design to arrive at Shropshire's Volvo dealership was designated as a showroom and demonstration model.

But it was immediately sold by William A. Lewis and delivered to its owner with a brand new 13 plate for March 1 registration.

"Interest in the car has been very high," said Chris Bent of the William A. Lewis Volvo sales team at Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury. A replacement demonstrator is now available and other R-Design models for supply in the near future are on their way to the dealership."

R-Design, said Chris, was Volvo's concept for cars that have a sporty appearance without compromising on emissions and fuel economy. The model returns an extra urban quoted figure of

83.1 mpg with CO2 emissions of 94 g/km. The V40 R-Design is exempt from road fund tax under current government legislation.

"R-Design is the latest model from Volvo to give these benefits," said Chris. "The sporty V40 R-Design is available with strong, fuel-efficient petrol and diesel engines – including a high output, five cylinder 254hp unit. You'll never be short of power when you need it."

"Refined stability control and torque vectoring – which greatly improves handling and agility – will ensure the driver is totally in control at all times." He said R-Design would meet the needs of the most demanding driver. Its combination of exterior and interior styling, optional sports chassis and responsive engines created a sporty yet refined 5-door performance hatchback.

On the road the V40 R-Design offered

sharper handling and steering without compromising on ride quality, while an optional lowered sports chassis reduced body roll through corners.

Unique

Externally, said Chris, the car benefits from 'unique treatment' to its day time running lights within the specific R-Design front spoiler.

"The rear is identified by twin exhaust pipes and diffuser." Other features include a unique alloy wheel design and chrome mirror caps.

Internally, V40 R-Design has a unique upholstery with the leather featuring R-Design logos. Centre stack console, Volvo's TFT dashboard – giving a choice of three different dashboard display options – illuminated soft touch gear shifter and personalised interior LED



Ian Parkes says New Renault Clio keeps up Clio tradition of redefining expectations.

New Renault

The launch of New Renault Clio couldn't have come at a better time, says Shropshire's Renault dealer.

"New Clio has generated a lot of interest and sales at both the Shrewsbury and Telford dealerships. It is a vast improvement on the previous model in all respects," said Ian Parkes, brand manager of William A. Lewis Renault.

The completely brand new car is the fourth generation of Clio in the model's 22 year history. It has superseded Clio 3 which was launched in 2005.

More than 11 million Renault

Clios have been released since the first generation. Clio took a huge leap forward from a higher-end car while its lines lost none of its charm.

Recognition was given – including 'Young Car of the Year'. Clio quickly became a benchmark in its class.

The latest version embodies Renault's identity which sees forward, yet warm. The newcomer has attracted the interest of the public and has positive media response.



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Wedding photographer, Nikki Lomax, looked pretty as a picture sitting in her brand new Nissan. "I'm made up," said smiling-snapper Nikki. "After the dealer explained how efficient it was and I saw it was such great value, I knew in a flash I had to buy it!"

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Fuel economy figures for the Micra 1.2 VISIA 5 DOOR mpg (l/100km). Urban - 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban - 65.7 (4.3), Combined - 56.5 (5.0), CO2 emissions 115 g/km. Note 1.4 n-tec+ 5 DOOR Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban - 54.3 (5.2), Combined - 47.9 (5.9), CO2 emissions 139 g/km.

Offers valid until 28 March 2013 at participating dealers only. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition if you elect to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement. Figures based on annual mileage of 10,000 miles. Excess Mileage charged at 8p per mile. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1P. Finance is available subject to status on eligible new vehicles in the UK. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Terms and Conditions apply, please visit www.nissan-offers.co.uk for further information. Our dealership introduces customers to a limited number of finance providers including RCI Financial Services Ltd. Finance providers pay us for introducing you to them. Offers not available in conjunction with any schemes or other offers, please visit www.nissan-offers.co.uk or your local dealer for information. Customer deposit on Micra shown includes £500 Nissan Deposit Contribution, which is only available when taken on 6.9% APR HP/PCP or Lease Nissan Finance Product. Breakdown services provided by RAC Motoring Services and/or RAC Insurance Ltd. All prices include first registration fee and 12 months road fund licence. Information correct at time of going to print. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Models subject to availability. Micra shown has metallic paint at £450 inc. VAT. Note shown has metallic paint at £450 inc. VAT. The characters and events referred to in this ad are entirely fictitious. Any similarities to real people or events are not intentional and are purely coincidental. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9RS.

Model shown is Yaris Edition 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £11,795. Offer excludes metallic paint extra £495. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of Yaris Edition when ordered between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ before 30 June 2013 on a 3 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0-20% deposit. *Payment shown is based on a 3 year AccessToyota contract with £1,888.40 deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over 30,000 charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

Yaris Edition 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO2 Emissions 111g/km.

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Substantial and beautifully presented family farmhouse

Offers in the region of £499,995 are invited by agents Halls for a substantial and beautifully presented farmhouse near Ellesmere, which comes with extensive farm buildings and a paddock. The Hollies, English Frankton, which extends to just under two acres, is set within lovely gardens and the outbuildings include a Grade II listed tythe barn. The farmhouse offers well appointed period accommodation. Attractive features include a David Hartill breakfast kitchen with extensive

units, granite worktops, a four-oven Aga, integrated appliances and a central island. The ground floor comprises a reception hall, sitting room, combined kitchen and dining room, family room, utility, office, walk-in larder and cloakroom or boot room. In addition there are five first floor bedrooms, family bathroom and a family shower room. The property has double glazing and oil-fired central heating, and is offered for sale with fitted carpets included in the purchase price. Attached to the house is a two-storey former cart

house with attractive arch features at ground floor level, which has full planning permission for conversion to provide reception rooms and a first floor bedroom. The building also has great potential for use as an annexe, consulting rooms, treatment rooms or studio, subject to consent. There are several further farm buildings which are used for storage, stabling, a tack room and gym. The landscaped gardens include a paved seating area, orchard, lawns and paddock. For further information call Halls on 01691 622602 or visit www.hallsgb.com



Cottage with 14 acres is ready for renovation

The sale of Birch House, Treflach, offers a rare opportunity to buy a three-bedroomed cottage in need of complete renovation. It has a stable block and detached stone barn, along with about 14 acres. It is for sale through Town & Country at £300,000 with no chain. Set at the head of Blodwell Bank, it has superb views over open countryside. There is an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, an outside wc, stone outbuilding, stables, lean-to outbuilding and covered store/workshop. The historic Offas Dyke runs through part of the land. For further information contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com



Property boasts four excellent bedrooms

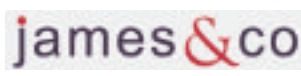
This delightful and well presented four-bedroomed mid terrace home was built to high standards in 2007. The property at 6 Lutton Close, Oswestry is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £225,000. Built in a traditional style with generous accommodation, it has a wide entrance hall, cloakroom, large sitting/dining room, kitchen with integrated appliances and granite working surfaces, a study, four excellent bedrooms, ensuite, shower room, bathroom, security system, double glazing, gas central heating, garage and parking for several vehicles. For further information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk



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Halls



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Paddock Cottage, Nantmawr

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Westlea, Weston Rhyn

Price: £129,950

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Rhyd Hir, Llanfyllin

Price: £375,000

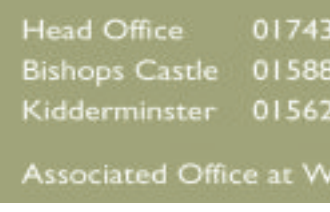
Contact Oswestry



Glanrafon, Llanwddyn

Price: £235,000

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Oak Drive, Oswestry

Price: £186,950

Contact Oswestry



Greenways, Dovaston

Price: £185,000

Contact Oswestry



Overton Road, St Martins

Price: £440,000

Contact Oswestry



Linden Croft, Llanymynech

Price: £129,950

Contact Oswestry



Mistletoe Cottage, Dudleston Heath

Price: £495,000

Contact Oswestry



Whittington Road, Oswestry

Price: Offers over £50,000

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College Road, Oswestry

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Castle Court Cottage, Whittington

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- A most delightful and well presented four bedroomed Mid-Terrace property that was constructed to high standards in 2007
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- Double glazing, Gas C/H, integral garage, parking for fore for several vehicles. EPC Rating C

Lutton Close
Oswestry £225,000**NEW**

- A Mid Terrace property Convenient to all facilities close to the center of the town
- Entrance porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Cellar
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Attic Room, Rear Yard
- Double Glazing throughout. Ideal for investment.
- EPC Rating

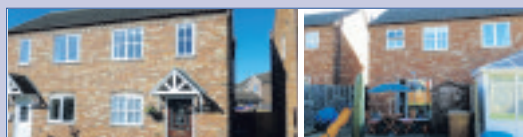
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- Four Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower Room. Oil fired central heating, double glazing, double garage. EPC Rating D

The Maltings
West Felton £225,000**NEW - NO CHAIN**

- A well positioned and spacious Detached House situated midway along Longueville Drive being convenient to all facilities in the town
- Covered Porch, Wide Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, a Large Sitting Room, Recently Refitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility
- Five Excellent Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom. Double glazing, gas fired central heating,
- Garage, parking for several cars on the driveway, delightful private gardens to the rear

Longueville Drive
Oswestry £220,000**NEW PRICE**

- A well located and convenient Semi-Detached Family House in superb order
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Two Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom.
- Double glazing, gas fired central heating, a lawned garden to the rear with sun patio
- Parking to the fore. Ideal for first time purchase or investment. EPC Rating D

Cabin Lane
Oswestry £109,995**NEW PRICE**

- A most spacious and comfortably appointed Semi-Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Double glazing, gas fired central heating, garage, delightful gardens to the rear.
- EPC Rating D

Unicorn Road
Oswestry £134,950**LARGE GARDEN - NO CHAIN**

- A most delightful Detached Country Cottage set adjacent to open countryside in a picturesque location
- Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room. Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- LP Gas C/H. Double Glazing, Off road parking, Fully enclosed good size rear gardens
- The cottage has undergone electrical rewiring and a modern LP gas central heating system is installed while further improvements have been made by way of new kitchen and bathroom suites.

Ball Lane
Maesbury £229,500**RURAL LOCATION**

- A most delightful Country Cottage set in a truly rural location
- Close to Frankton Locks and the Shropshire Union Canal
- Ent Hall/Utility, Sitting Rm with Inglenook, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
- Ground Floor Bedroom, Shower Rm, 2 1st Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom
- D/G, LP Gas C/H, ample parking in the lawned grounds
- Garage & greenhouse, in its own gardens & grounds with rural views

Lower Frankton
Nr Oswestry £200,000

- An immaculate and spacious Detached House
- Constructed to high standards the property offers
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Room with bay, Separate Dining Rm
- Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- D/G, Gas C/H, cavity wall and loft insulation, garage
- Lawned garden with patio to rear, parking to fore

Balmoral Crescent
Oswestry £169,950

21

Collective Property Auction

Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton, Oswestry, 2.00pm

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For more information please call any of our offices.

SOLD

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AUCTION

A character property situated in a prime location within the Village of Llansilin. Ideal for conversion to a residential dwelling with scope for flare and individual design on a spacious layout.

WREXHAM
Johnstown

LOT 2 Guide Price
Over £70,000

AUCTION

• Semi-detached Property

• Two Reception Rooms

• Double Glazing

• Gardens & Garage

WREXHAM
Coedpoeth

LOT 3 Guide Price
£30,000

AUCTION

• Unconverted Chapel

• Heart of village location

• Suitable for various alternative uses (subject to consent).

FLINT
Kelsterton

LOT 4 Guide Price
£60,000

AUCTION

• Two Bedroom Cottage

• Two Reception Rooms

• Rear Garden

• Double Glazing

• EPC rating G

LLANGOLLEN
Pontfadog

LOT 5 Guide Price
Over £20,000-£30,000

AUCTION

• Chapel situated within the village of Pontfadog.

• Scope for conversion to a number of different uses subject to the necessary planning consent being obtained.

LLANGOLLEN
Nantyr

LOT 6 Guide Price
£90,000 to £100,000

AUCTION

• Stone built barn for Conversion

• Full Planning Permission for 3 bedroom property

• Gardens ext to approx 0.24 ac

• Elevated rural position

• Outstanding views over Ceiriog Valley

• Additional Land available by separate negotiation

SHREWSBURY
Ruyton XI Towns

LOT 7 Guide Price
Over £100,000

AUCTION

• Spacious Mid-Terrace House

• Entrance Hall/Study

• Sitting Room, Cellarage

• Dining Room, Kitchen,

• 4 Beds, Family Bathroom, Large Landing Sitting Room,

• Rear Garden, Parking

• EPC Rating E

LLANGOLLEN
Nantyr

LOT 8 Guide Price
Over £100,000

AUCTION

• Accommodation land extending to 18.07 acres

• The land is currently laid to pasture and generally in good heart.

• Road frontage to both blocks.

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V40 is very high

lighting. All provide the gateway to several safety features such as adaptive cruise control with auto brake and road sign information to complement the existing high level of safety equipment standard on all V40's.

He said it was the first car to exceed the NCAP star rating in terms of safety equipment. The V40 R-Design features a host of technologies that would protect the driver and passengers in an accident. "These are all part of Volvo's IntelliSafe philosophy which ensures a person's time behind the wheel will always be as safe and enjoyable as possible."

V40 R-Design is available from £259 a month on Personal Contract Purchase (PCP). Test drives can be booked through the William A. Lewis Volvo sales team on 01743 441251.



Chris Bent with a Volvo V40 R-Design which has just arrived by transporter

It Clio comes at right time

hasn't long in coming over the top generation Renault 5 in 1990. The car, it benefited from positioning, and no time in winners.

1991 Car of the Year award. The Renault 5 was a class.

of the model Renault's new styling asks to be straight and sensuous. Renault has lost no time in rest of the motor-averting its first views.

"When it comes to innovation, New Renault Clio keeps up the tradition of redefining expectations within its segment and raising the standards for small cars," said Ian.

Expression

"New Renault Clio is the first production model to give full expression to the Renault design renaissance inspired by Laurens van den Acker.

<None>The promise was to take the style and emotion of the brand's latest concept cars and bring them to production models. "Renault's new small family car fulfils that promise."

He said the new Clio stands out

through its front-end design which features a prominent Renault logo set bold and upright to a gloss black background. The front treatment is further emphasised by the headlights, the lower edge of which is picked out in chrome, and LED daytime running lights.

"In comparison with its predecessor, it packs extra dynamism and personality thanks to a lower ride height, wider tracks, wheels pushed wide within the arches and a reduction in the gap between the wheels and wheel arches.

In its five-door form, it offers a choice of eight body colours. And buyers can personalise the exterior of their vehicle with a selection of door mirror housings, grille

bars, rear panel skirts, lower door protectors and wheel finishes as well as a choice of roof graphics.

As a result of attractively priced option packs, buyers are able to choose the look and feel they prefer.

New Renault Clio combines low fuel consumption and CO2 emissions savings.

Euro NCAP has ranked New Clio as the 'Best Car of 2012' in its 'supermini' class. This distinction provides further evidence of Renault's expertise in the fields of active and passive safety.

The car starts at £10,959 on the road. For further information, contact William A. Lewis Renault on 01743 450030 or 01952 211700.

New sales controller's first experience of Toyota RAV4

Newly appointed William A. Lewis Toyota sales controller Peter Griffiths has experienced his first drive of the all-new Toyota RAV4.

Having just joined the Harlescott Lane, Shrewsbury-based dealership, Peter, who has been in the motoring trade for 37 years, was impressed with its performance.

"It's comfortable and fun to drive," said Peter, who has experienced many different cars during his long career in the industry. "I enjoyed the experience and would thoroughly recommend the new RAV4."

William A. Lewis Toyota say there's a new exterior styling and a newly designed cabin that's significantly more spacious and comfortable.

Easier

They also point to more load space – 547 litres with the seats in place and 100 litres in the boot's larger undertray.

New RAV4 is also easier to load with a move from a side to a top hinged tailgate, with a wider opening and lower lip height.

"There's no mistaking the new RAV4 as being part of the modern Toyota 'family' with its stronger front end treatment," said brand manager Carl Jenks. "It comes complete with keen-edged headlights and day time running lights.

"The side-on view emphasises its muscular quality with a rising belt-line, extended glass area, blacked out centre and rear pillars and distinctive profile shape."

Inside, he said the new dashboard was formed from two horizontal beams, intersected by a curving metal spar that framed the driver's cockpit.

"With the focus on a better driving experience, the RAV4 follows the example of the new Auris with its lower overall height and driving position as well as sharper steering wheel angle," said Carl.

"Excellent ergonomics, a wealth of soft-touch materials, extra leather around the instrument panel and new cool blue illumination for all the switchgear raise the interior quality and comfort."

He said while the driver sat lower in the car, there was more legroom and more comfortable seats for those in the rear. The 60:40 rear seats retained their quick and simple easy flat folding mechanism that provided a flat load floor in one simple action.



New man at the dealership Peter Griffiths

New RAV4 is available with a choice of two (front) or all-wheel drive. The engine line-up offers a 149 bhp 2 litre petrol engine, a new 122 bhp 2 litre diesel and a 148 bhp 2.2 litre diesel. Said Carl: "Each one gives improved carbon dioxide emissions performance. Compared with the previous model, an average 12% improvement."

He says prospective buyers should look out for the 2 litre diesel in the front wheel drive RAV4 – equipped with Toyota's Stop & Start technology. It produces just 127 g/km of CO2's. He also commented on its manoeuvrability and confident performance when the going gets tough. The new RAV4 builds on its SUV attributes with re-tuned suspension, revised electric power steering and an Integrated Dynamic Drive System that comes with a new Sport mode.

RAV4 runs with front-wheel drive in normal conditions, but introduces rear-wheel drive as soon as the system detects any slip or understeer.

"More high tech features are also being introduced for RAV4," Carl explained. "There is an emphasis on safety with Toyota's Lane Departure Alert and Blind Spot Monitor." Prices start at £22,955 for the 2 litre diesel model.



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* Business users only. Similar hire offers available for non-business users. Examples exclude VAT based on non-maintained contract hire with an initial payment of 6 monthly rentals, followed by 35 monthly rentals, with a mileage of 10,000 miles per annum. Excess Mileage Charges apply. Subject to availability at participating dealers for vehicles registered between 26th February 2013 and 30th June 2013, or while stocks last. Not available with other promotions. Volvo Car Leasing Contract Hire is provided by Lex Autolease Ltd, trading as Volvo Car Leasing.

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The official consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the New Clio core range are: Urban 40.4 (7)–78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7)–94.2 (3.0); Combined 51.4 (5.5)–88.3 (3.2). The official CO₂ emissions for the range are 127–83g/km.

* Business users only. Similar hire offers available for non-business users. Examples exclude VAT based on non-maintained contract hire with an initial payment of 6 monthly rentals, followed by 35 monthly rentals, with a mileage of 10,000 miles per annum. Excess Mileage Charges apply. Subject to availability at participating dealers for vehicles registered between 26th February 2013 and 30th June 2013, or while stocks last. Not available with other promotions. Volvo Car Leasing Contract Hire is provided by Lex Autolease Ltd, trading as Volvo Car Leasing.

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On the Road

ADAM's already turning heads in car showrooms

The arrival of ADAM has brought a buzz to the showrooms of award-winning Vauxhall dealer Arthurs of Oswestry and Newtown.

Members of the Arthurs sales teams confess to being more excited and enthusiastic about the brand new urban-chic small car than they had ever imagined.

"What a classy, sophisticated and glamorous three door model it is," enthused Grant Dodsworth, one of the Vauxhall dealer's longest-serving sales executives.

"I am particularly impressed with the bold, up-market design with two tone 'floating' roof," said Grant. "The crisp line around the door handle, the wing shaped chrome grille bar and the blade shape in the lower doors are so fashionable."

"It will also be the first car in its class to have the option of LED daytime running lights. ADAM bucks the trend for retro-based design with a fresh and bold look that I am confident will appeal to open-minded individuals who want to defy convention with a car that's distinctive and striking."

Visually

The launch of ADAM, which starts at £11,255 on the road, has also thrilled his colleague Phil Ellison who admires the 'floating' roof which is visually disconnected from the body, making the use of two-tone colour schemes more impactful than ever before.

Said Phil: "I think Vauxhall is absolutely spot on in targeting customers who will appreciate ADAM's high degree of personalisation options. It is available in three trims and ADAM customers can effectively 'build' their own car."

"There are almost unlimited visual combinations, with a wide variety of exterior colours including two different roof colours. Customers can even choose their headlining, including an LED-lit starlight roof trim."

He said ADAM was being offered with a choice of three efficient ecoFLEX four-cylinder petrol engines; a 1.2 litre 70PS; plus two 1.4 litre engines with either 87PS or 100PS. All will be available with optional Start/Stop technology and will be mated to a five-speed manual gearbox.

Craig Huxley, another member of the Arthurs Vauxhall sales team, commented on the new, unique top of the range information system designed to support new media sources.



Grant Dodsworth with the new ADAM in the Arthurs of Oswestry showroom

He said these include Bluetooth as well as connectivity for smart phones with Android or Apple iOS software.

Said Craig: "This enables access to internet-based applications, including GPS navigation. The system uses a state-of-the-art seven inch, full colour touch screen display allowing quick access to a variety of on-board controls."

He said that round, mechanical clock-style instruments with chrome bezels marked a departure from those seen in other Vauxhalls, while ADAM customers could also opt for a heated steering wheel – another first in the class.

Added Craig: "ADAM breaks new ground in the A-segment by offering advanced technology normally only found in higher-end cars."

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Italian job going for bigger picture



The widely acclaimed Fiat 500 family has expanded dramatically with the launch of the all-new 500L. Designed for customers who want a car that combines the 500's unique personality, style and image with added practicality, capability and size, the five-door 500L goes on sale at the end of the first quarter of 2013.

The Fiat 500L mixes user-friendly technology with eco-friendliness and plenty of space, all wrapped up in a characterful package. This combination of Italian style together with Fiat's unique ability to conceive and design cars that are innovative in substance and form, makes it much more than just a typical mini MPV.

By expanding on its concept of 'space efficiency', Fiat has developed the new 500L, combining practicality and internal flexibility to produce a distinctive and versatile vehicle, while

incorporating the spirit and attitude of the 500. The 'cab forward' design frees up passenger space inside. It means the Fiat 500L can easily accommodate five passengers with five suitcases. The 500L also has a spacious feel thanks to extensive glazing. This includes windscreen pillars that have been divided and tapered to improve visibility and increase the car's strength in case of a collision. A knock-on effect is that the Fiat 500L has already been made a five-star car crash safety by Euro NCAP.

Although it will be classified as a mini-MPV, the Fiat 500L has the 500's fun, cool and cheeky attitude to ensure it appeals to owners who want more than just a functional family car. As well as being the most space-efficient passenger car in relation to its size, it has the widest range of colours in its segment. Compared to its rivals it has the cleanest petrol engine, the best passenger volume index, the biggest touchscreen radio and the largest glass roof on sale. There's an enormous range of options specifically designed to make life with the 500L better.

Passion

Fiat believes this unique ownership proposition will ensure that 500L owners won't be pigeon-holed into regular demographic groups. Age, geographical location, job and income won't define them; their attitude to life will. They'll be the sort of people who are looking for a car to be an extension of their personality and reflect their passion for life.

Continental buyers of the Fiat 500L have already proved this by coming from a wide range of backgrounds. Fifty seven per cent of 500L customers migrate from other brands with 61 per cent from other segments including 37 per cent from the B segment, 16 per cent from the C segment and 8 per cent from the A segment.

To cater for this variety of owner, great care and attention was paid to the technology and materials used inside. The Fiat 500L becomes the first of the company's cars to use the new UConnect touch screen infotainment system. This allows media players and mobile phones to be connected to the car and controlled via

voice, the steering wheel or touch screen. The 500L also has available City Brake Control, a system designed to watch over the driver and either prevent or lessen the damage in low-speed collisions.

And there are some other unique options. It'll become the first car ever to have a Lavazza coffee maker built into it. There is a Beats by Dr Dre in-car sound system for audiophiles plus many other options for owners to personalise their cars further.

The boot has 400-litres of space and by using the Fold&Tumble function on the rear seat and folding the front seat down, an object that's 2.4m long can be stowed on the flat load surface.

The Cargo Magic Space system allows the boot to be split into sections and there are 22 compartments of differing size in the cabin as well as multi-adjustable seats front and rear.

The Fiat 500L has three trim levels, Pop Star, Easy and Lounge, plus four engine options: 1.4-litre Fire petrol and the 875cc TwinAir Turbo, plus the 1.3 (with manual and automatic transmissions) and 1.6-litre MultiJet 2 turbo diesels.

The Pop Star and Easy models cost £14,990 but feature different equipment to target different customer profiles.

The top of the range Lounge trim costs only £1,400 more but has £2,000 worth of extra equipment. Moving from the 95hp 1.4-litre petrol to either the 105hp TwinAir Turbo or the 85hp 1.3 MultiJet costs £1,500. To go up to the 105hp 1.6 MultiJet is £1,000. The MTA dualogic transmission on the 1.3 MultiJet is £900 more than the regular manual gearbox.



The Fiat 500L can easily accommodate five passengers with five suitcases



Cab-forward design frees up space inside

BEACH WEAR

NU13 REG

Ingrid wears Fiat 500C in Volare Blue, with Ivory soft-top roof which folds silently at the touch of a button. This Fiat 500C has a super low emissions TwinAir engine, so no need for road tax. Model also wears pastel wellies, as she didn't have time to paint her toenails.



5 SPRING/SUMMER COLLECTION



SPORTS WEAR

NU13 REG

HURRY!
OFFER ENDS
MARCH 31ST!

Bruce wears Fiat 500S in feisty Pasodoble Red. Includes sports interior, leather steering wheel with built in audio controls, rear spoiler and body-coloured side skirts. Its über-low emissions TwinAir engine means zero road tax. Antique fingerless driving gloves, model's own.



5 SPRING/SUMMER COLLECTION



DRIVE AWAY WITH **NO DEPOSIT NEEDED** AND ONLY **5.6% APR** REPRESENTATIVE

Example: Fiat 500 1.2 Pop 3dr Start Stop

Cash price£9,960.00
Customer deposit.....NIL
Deposit paid by TJVickers#£1,000.00

Amount to finance£8,960.00
Interest charges£1,138.00
Payable by 47 monthly payments£139.00
Followed by a final payment of£3,850.00

Option fee payable with final payment.....£285.00
Total amount payable.....£11,383.00
Excess mileage charge per mile.....6.0 pence
Miles per annum5,000

Fixed rate of interest4.59%
Term.....48 months
Representative APR.....5.6%

Motability
www.tjvickers.co.uk

Trench Road, Trench, Telford TF2 6PL

Tel 01952 671 121

Knights Way, Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury SY1 3AB

Tel 01743 460 777



plus choose from over 100 quality used cars in stock from only £2999 follow us on

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Car hits spot it aims at better than others

The official figures read like science fiction; a family saloon capable of nearly 150mph and topping 60mpg in everyday use. Can't be true, can it?

Well no, not really. But so close in the real world to still make this modestly handsome BMW a modern mechanical marvel.

I don't doubt that on a sufficiently long test track the car's potent and distantly gruff diesel engine would push it to the 146mph claimed by its maker, but I didn't get the chance to try it.

I do know, though, that 90mph on the A14 feels so much like a 70mph canter that you need to keep a keen focus on the speedometer.

By Ian Donaldson

And I can report that after 600 miles of mixed motoring, the trip computer showed 54mpg. That's a tribute to the way the BMW engineers have honed the car's oily bits, without recourse to the complex and expensive extra batteries and motors of, say, a hybrid car.

Combine that everyday economy figure with the car's relaxed performance and it's obvious why the 3 Series is so liked by fleet managers, company car drivers and why it was seventh best seller in the UK last year, ahead of cars like the smaller VW Polo.

This sixth generation 3 Series is BMW's

biggest seller worldwide and you can only imagine the amount of midnight oil burned at BMW central to make sure it continued along this successful sales road.

It was time well spent; this is a car that feels smooth and sophisticated in the sort of way that only shedloads of money and time can produce.

There's a deliciously smooth feel about the way the car goes about its business, from steering and clutch to control switches and door closing. It's a class act.

A comfortable one, too, with a nicely cushioned ride in the £28,410 320d SE test car that would surprise passengers familiar with older 3 Series models. Rear seat passengers enjoy another benefit in the latest versions; extra leg room and taller doors to make getting in and out a little easier.

There's a slightly bigger boot too, along with a smoother body shape and a small weight reduction. All showing how BMW has kept the 3 Series at the top of its game by nudging it forward, generation after generation.

With 182bhp under the bonnet from a 2.0 litre diesel, there's always more than enough performance, helped by a gearchange that stays smooth, if not as perfectly precise as some.

The brand's slogan as 'ultimate driving machine' was slightly smudged on the test car by a couple of additions. The car was equipped with £180 worth of ser-votronic steering which lightens the wheel load at low speeds but removes some of the precision.

The second change was both a timely addition and perhaps another slight constraint on the car's ability to delight a keen driver.



There's a slightly bigger boot along with a smoother body shape



Only two slight snags - small displays and a rear screen that stays obscure in rain

BMW had fitted winter tyres and must have access to a crystal ball, as it snowed (in March!) for several days of my test. They coped brilliantly with slopes and snow-white corners but may have left the car feeling a little less precise than before.

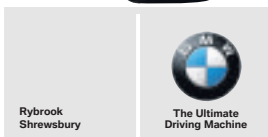
Otherwise, nothing to add in the not-quite-ideal column. Unless you're nit-picking, when

you discover it's harder than necessary to discover the time of day (small displays that can vanish when you call up other functions) and a rear screen that stays obscure in the rain (it's a saloon, so no wiper).

Small niggles for a car that hits the spot it aims at much better than anything I can think of.



A comfortable, cushioned ride in this BMW



WE HAVE BEEN SHEDDING THE POUNDS IN 2013.

So much so that we have some exclusive offers from Rybrook Shrewsbury. **From as little as a £1,000 deposit you can look good and feel great in a BMW 1, 3 or 5 series.**

For more information about these offers and to find out about any other current offers please speak to a member of the New Car Sales team.

Rybrook Shrewsbury

70 Battlefield Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 4AQ
01743 467 467 www.rybrookshrewsburybmw.co.uk

BMW EfficientDynamics
Less emissions. More driving pleasure.



Model	Representative Example: BMW 114i Sport 3-door Sports
Term of agreement	48 months
Monthly payments of	£253.77
On the road cash price*	£19,575.00
Customer deposit	£1,000.00
Dealer deposit contribution	£1,100.00
Total deposit	£2,100.00
Amount of credit	£17,475.00
Credit arrangement fee**	£0.00
Option to purchase fee**	£10.00
Optional final payment	£7,992.00
Total amount payable by customer	£20,929.19
Total amount payable	£22,029.19
Rate of interest	4.9%
	Representative 4.9%

Official fuel economy figures for the new BMW 114i Sport 3-door: Extra Urban 58.9mpg (4.8 l/100km), Urban 39.2mpg (7.2 l/100km), Combined 49.6mpg (5.7 l/100km). CO2 emissions 132g/km

Finance examples are based on BMW Select Agreements for the models stated: a BMW 114i Sport 3-door Sports Hatch with a contract mileage of 32,000 and excess mileage charge of 4.95 (per mile), a BMW 114i Sport 3-door Sports Hatch with a contract mileage of 32,000 and excess mileage charge of 4.95 (per mile). *Credit arrangement fee payable in two parts £0.00 with first monthly payment and £0.00 at the end of the agreement. **Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturers recommended retail price and include 3 year BMW dealer warranty, BMW Emergency Services, 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VED. Retail customers only. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18s only (excluding The Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. We can arrange finance for you. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMFS) whilst we have close links with BMFS and commonly introduce customers to BMFS. We do not work exclusively with BMFS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.

Rybrook pride and joy



You can get your car a clean at Rybrook BMW on Saturdays

How many dealers invite you into their dealership, and give you a complimentary wash and vacuum every Saturday? Rybrook Shrewsbury do.

It is simple, bring your BMW into the dealership anytime on a Saturday between 8.30am and 3.00pm and Rybrook will wash and vacuum it free of charge. Whilst that is being done, you can take a test drive in a BMW from the extensive range, visit the parts and accessory showroom, or simply sit comfortably in the customer lounge reading the paper or watching the television with a drink of your choice.

Spend your weekend's wisely, and let Rybrook look after your Pride and Joy.

If you didn't know about this service and want to join in then please pop into the dealership on Saturdays

First come first served or to find out more call 01743 467467.

Treatment

There was a ladies day on March 9 where Rybrook gave its female customers a complimentary beauty treatment complete with cupcakes and refreshments. These ladies really enjoyed taking it easy whilst Rybrook was working hard outside cleaning their cars.

Keep up-to-date on Twitter and Facebook

Why not follow Rybrook on Twitter and like the dealership on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news at Rybrook Shrewsbury.

All you have to do is search @Shrewsbury BMW for Twitter and Rybrook Shrewsbury BMW for Facebook.



Network joined by the Chester Porsche centre

The Rybrook Group now represents Porsche for the first time following the recent completion of the acquisition of the entire share capital of Corkills Chester Limited.

The business continues to trade as Porsche Centre Chester and all staff were retained by the company. The new business has increased the Warwick-based group's dealerships to 19.

Strategic

"The acquisition of Porsche Centre Chester was a perfect strategic fit for us in terms of its location and complements the product and specialist franchise portfolio we already represent," said Henry Whale, Rybrook's managing director.

"We had been admirers of the Porsche brand for some time and are now delighted to represent the franchise, increase our group's representation across the north west and expand our service and product offering."

News from the dealership

Rybrook is hosting a two day Motability event on Friday March 15th and Saturday March 16 for all of its Motability customers, please feel free to pop in and discuss your BMW Motability needs. There will be motability specialists to discuss your requirements. Refreshments will be supplied.

Rybrook Shrewsbury is the proud sponsor of The Shrewsbury Club!

Sponsors

"We are pleased to announce that we are now sponsoring The Shrewsbury Club on Sundorne Road, Shropshire's premier fitness, leisure and tennis club. The facilities include gym, fitness studio, swimming pool and Imagine Spa. The Shrewsbury Club is one of the most comprehensive tennis facilities in the UK," said a spokesman.

New Z4 now in showroom

Its engine heralds a new entry point into BMW Z4 ownership. Priced from £27,610 OTR this new derivative uses a de-tuned version of an existing 2.0-litre four-cylinder twin-scroll turbocharged engine.

Producing 156hp at 5,000rpm from its 1,997cc powerplant the car is capable of zero to 62mph time of 7.9 seconds before going on to a top speed of 137mph. It manages to do this while still recording 41.5mpg and emissions of just 159g/km.

Some of the existing engines have also received enhancements to improve their overall performance. The BMW Z4 sDrive20i comes with a 184hp engine that achieves 41.5mpg and 159g/km CO2.

Further up the range and the four-cylinder twin-scroll turbocharged sDrive28i, and the six-cylinder twin-turbocharged sDrive35i and the sDrive35is offer customers greater performance courtesy of their respective 245hp, 306hp and 340hp power outputs. All cars are rated at an electronically-limited 155mph top speed.

Transmitting the power to the road is a six-speed manual gearbox as standard. Customers can also specify an eight-speed automatic with gear shift paddles located on the steering wheel, while buyers of the BMW Z4 sDrive35is have a seven-speed Double Clutch Transmission, again with gear shift paddles, as standard.

Performance

All of the latest BMW Z4s come as standard with facets of BMW's award-winning EfficientDynamics programme. Technologies that improve engine performance while enhancing economy and cutting emissions include Brake Energy Regeneration, Electric Power Steering with Servotronic, Reduced Rolling Resistance Tyres, on-demand control of the engine's ancillaries and Optimum Shift Indicator on manual transmission cars. The

BMW Z4 also adheres to a philosophy of lightweight construction with the front suspension and subframe being largely made from aluminium.

The styling has only had minor enhancements mid-life. The headlights now include white LED corona rings and a white 'eyebrow' with additional chrome detailing, while in profile the side gill features chrome detailing and LED side repeater lights.

Building on the striking looks of the BMW Z4 is the introduction of the Pure Traction Design package. Available exclusively in Valencia Orange with an optional black contrast roof the model also comes with Sport seats in Alcantara and leather with contrast stitching, Anthracite headlining and a unique metal weave interior trim. Should a customer wish to have another exterior colour this can be offered though. The Pure Traction Design package costs from £550 up to £2,240 depending on the model within the Z4 range it is order on. SE and M Sport derivatives will continue to be offered.



Model	Representative Example: BMW 316 SE Saloon
Term of agreement	48 months
Monthly payments of	£343.20
On the road cash price*	£24,505.00
Customer deposit	£1,000.00
Dealer deposit contribution	£1,516.80
Total deposit	£2,516.80
Amount of credit	£21,988.20
Credit arrangement fee*	£0.00
Option to purchase fee**	£10.00
Optional final payment	£8,820.00
Total amount payable by customer	£25,960.40
Total amount payable	£27,477.20
Rate of interest	4.9%
	Representative 4.9% APR

Fuel economy figures for the BMW 3 Series Saloon range: Extra Urban 43.5 – 78.5mpg (6.5 – 3.6 l/100km) Urban 22.4 – 56.5mpg (12.6 – 5.0 l/100km) Combined 32.5 – 68.9mpg (8.7 – 4.1 l/100km) CO2 emissions 202 – 109 g/km.

Finance examples are based on BMW Select Agreements for the models stated: a BMW 316 SE Saloon with a contract mileage of 32,000 and excess mileage charge of 3.75 (per mile); a BMW 316 SE Saloon with a contract mileage of 32,000 and excess mileage charge of 3.75 (per mile). *Credit arrangement fee payable in two parts £0.00 with first monthly payment and £0.00 at the end of the agreement. **Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturers recommended retail price and include 3 year BMW dealer warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Retail customers only. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18's only (excluding The Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. We can arrange finance for you. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMWFS) whilst we have close links with BMWFS and commonly introduce customers to BMWFS we do not work exclusively with BMWFS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.



Model	Representative Example: BMW 520d SE Saloon
Term of agreement	48 months
Monthly payments of	£436.73
On the road cash price*	£30,430.00
Customer deposit	£1,000.00
Dealer deposit contribution	£3,063.89
Total deposit	£4,063.89
Amount of credit	£26,366.11
Credit arrangement fee*	£0.00
Option to purchase fee**	£10.00
Optional final payment	£10,104.12
Total amount payable by customer	£31,640.43
Total amount payable	£34,704.32
Rate of interest	5.9%
	Representative 5.9% APR

Official fuel economy figures for the BMW 520d SE Saloon: Extra Urban: 65.7mpg (4.3l/100km), Urban: 47.9mpg (5.9l/100km), Combined: 57.6mpg (4.9l/100km). CO2 emissions 129g/km

Finance examples are based on BMW Select Agreements for the models stated: a BMW 520d SE Saloon with a contract mileage of 32,000 and excess mileage charge of 6.30 (per mile); a BMW 520d SE Saloon with a contract mileage of 32,000 and excess mileage charge of 6.30 (per mile). *Credit arrangement fee payable in two parts £0.00 with first monthly payment and £0.00 at the end of the agreement. **Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturers recommended retail price and include 3 year BMW dealer warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Retail customers only. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18's only (excluding The Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. We can arrange finance for you. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMWFS) whilst we have close links with BMWFS and commonly introduce customers to BMWFS we do not work exclusively with BMWFS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.



Model	Representative Example: BMW Z4 sDrive20i Roadster with options †
Term of agreement	48 months
Monthly payments of	£299.00
On the road cash price*	£30,135.00
Customer deposit	£3,949.00
Dealer deposit contribution	£4,881.72
Total deposit	£8,830.72
Amount of credit	£21,304.28
Credit arrangement fee*	£0.00
Option to purchase fee**	£10.00
Optional final payment	£11,011.50
Total amount payable by customer	£29,023.50
Total amount payable	£33,905.22
Rate of interest	5.9%
	Representative 5.9% APR

Fuel economy figures for the BMW Z4 range : Extra Urban 40.4-65.7 mpg (7.0-4.3 l/100km) Urban 20.9-49.6 mpg (13.5-5.7 l/100km) Combined 30.1-58.9 mpg (9.4-4.8 l/100km) CO2 emissions 200-159 g/km.

Finance examples are based on BMW Select Agreements for the models stated: a BMW Z4 sDrive20i Roadster with a contract mileage of 32,000 and excess mileage charge of 6.90 (per mile); a BMW Z4 sDrive20i Roadster with a contract mileage of 32,000 and excess mileage charge of 6.90 (per mile). *Credit arrangement fee payable in two parts £0.00 with first monthly payment and £0.00 at the end of the agreement. **Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturers recommended retail price and include 3 year BMW dealer warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Retail customers only. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18's only (excluding The Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. We can arrange finance for you. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMWFS) whilst we have close links with BMWFS and commonly introduce customers to BMWFS we do not work exclusively with BMWFS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.

On the Road

Take a look at new cars while doing the shopping

The better weather means the team are getting out and about within the county, and taking their cars off site, so you don't have to go to them.

Last week Peugeot and Alfa Romeo were at Sainsburys, Meole Brace Retail Park, Shrewsbury and Citroen were at Morrisons, Wellington. The teams enjoyed meeting shoppers and the Citroen team will be back at Sainsburys, Meole Brace this Saturday. Go and say hello, they would love to meet you.

Alfa Romeo DNA in compact supercar

The most expensive car that Budgen Motors will have ever offered for sale, the amazing new Alfa Romeo 4C compact supercar made its debut this month, at the 83rd Geneva International Motor Show, where orders officially opened for the 'Launch Edition' of the new Alfa Romeo 4C compact supercar at a price of £52,000.

The new Launch Edition can 'clothe' its body with two liveries – Carrara White or Alfa Red – and is marked out by the distinctive badge, inlaid beneath the paintwork. The line of the special car is enhanced by the carbon aerodynamic kit (including spoiler and door mirror covers), the rear aluminium diffuser with dark finishing, Bi-LED headlights with dark surround and 18" (front) and 19" (rear) alloy wheels with burnishing treatment.

Of course, the Alfa Romeo 4C Launch Edition offers all the winning characteristics of the model that represents the essential sportiness embedded in the 'Alfa Romeo DNA': Italian style, performance and technical excellence, for maximum driving pleasure in complete safety.

Designed by Alfa Romeo and produced in the Maserati plant in Modena, the new mid-engined rear-wheel drive coupé with two bucket



New Alfa Romeo 4C has a price tag of £52,000

seats will be become available for purchase in 2013 and will mark the return of the Italian brand to the United States, inaugurating Alfa Romeo's global growth plan.

● Customers interested in learning

more about the 4C, the winner of 'Most Exciting Car of 2013' – 'What Car?' should contact the Alfa Romeo sales team on 01743 457499 or alfaromeosales@budgenmotors.co.uk



Take the roof down and feel the wind

Escape the ordinary in new Citroën DS3 Cabrio

The new Citroën DS3 Cabrio arrived this month and has been wowing customers with its funky styling and it's amazing practicality.

The feeling when the fabric roof is down is pure exhilaration, when up it's exceptionally snug and quiet and, almost unbelievably, the roof can be safely opened and closed at speeds of up to 70mph. The tailgate with its chrome handle and ingenious opening mechanism closes on a class leading 245

litres of space, and this cabrio can seat five people, so it appeals to your head as well as your heart. Sam Owen, sales manager, said "The reaction to the DS3 Cabrio has been extraordinary. Customers (who are old enough) recognise the reference to the retracting fabric roof on the iconic 2CV; although it's pleasing to see that technology has advanced just a little since those days! The DS3 is definitely one of the cars of the moment and this Cabrio version adds another dimension and even more personal-

ity to this amazing range." With prices starting at £15,045, up to £1,500 finance deposit contribution, three years servicing and three years roadside assistance, the DS3 Cabrio, along with the rest of the stylish Citroën range is available for test drive appointments at both Budgen Motors Citroën sites.

● For details contact the Telford sales team on 01952 621360, citroentelfordsales@budgenmotors.co.uk, the Shrewsbury team on 01743 452900 or citroenshrewsburysales@budgenmotors.co.uk

Better selection of used cars

At Budgen Motors (Shrewsbury and Telford) the March number plate change has created increased traffic both ways, in and out of all their dealerships. James Martin, financial director, said "We've delivered considerably more new retail vehicles across all three brands, compared to previous years, which have in turn brought in a large number of part-exchanges.

"All of these cars are fully inspected in our workshops by

our technicians; those that meet our quality standards are prepared for sale and those that are not are sent to auction. Consequently we've rarely had a better selection of used vehicles to choose from, at prices to suit all budgets, and there are more arriving throughout the month." Used cars at Budgen Motors are sold from all three locations (Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury 01743 452888, Battlefield, Shrewsbury 01743 452900 and Ketley, Telford 01952 621360) and their group stock of over 150 used cars (which is updated daily) can be viewed at www.budgenmotors.co.uk



Chris Symonds has done "the math"

The Just Add Fuel programme could save buyers a lot

Peugeot's exciting rang of new cars is increasing its market share in the UK and in particular the stunning new 208 is winning sales from rival manufacturers.

The innovative financing programme called 'Just Add Fuel' has been a resounding success story. This innovative way to drive a brand new vehicle has been sold with resulted into nearly half all new Peugeot car sales customers at Budgen Motors this quarter.

Chris Symonds, general sales leader, explains how the programme works, "A customer makes a single payment each month for three years which covers their car, warranty, servicing, breakdown recovery and their insurance. Typically a 32 year old male living in SY2, could be driving a brand new 208 for only £149 per month. Aside from tyres and oil, usually the only other item they need to budget for is fuel. We've "done the maths" for our customers so they can compare what they are currently paying with our Just Add Fuel single payment, and I'd say that eight out of every 10 people we see can make a considerable saving.

"Just Add Fuel is available on every NewNew Peugeot and my sales team would be happy to work out personal quotes for anyone who would like to find out more."

● For more information please contact the Peugeot sales team on 01743 452888 or peugotsales@budgenmotors.co.uk

www.citroen.co.uk

CITROËN prefer TOTAL

NEW CITROËN DS3 CABRIO

FROM ONLY £199 A MONTH*

WE'LL ALSO INCLUDE A COMPLIMENTARY SERVICING & ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR 3 YEARS†.

NEW CITROËN DS3 CABRIO INCLUDES:

- An electrically operated roof that will open at driving speeds of 70mph
- Seating for 5 adults and a class leading 245 litre boot
- Combined mpg up to 57.6 • 15 exterior colour combinations
- 3D LED rear light clusters • £0 1st year road tax

SEE THE NEW CITROËN DS3 CABRIO AT BUDGEN MOTORS

Call us now on 01743 452900 OR 01952 621360 to arrange your test drive.

CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE



*Elect 4 Personal Lease prices & offers apply to qualifying new Citroën vehicles ordered & delivered 01/01/13-31/03/13 & include VAT, delivery to Dealer & number plates, Government First Registration Fee & 12 months' graduated Vehicle Excise Duty. From price shown: New Citroën DS3 Cabrio VTI 82 manual DSign. An advance rental of £3200 will be required followed by 46 monthly rentals & an optional final rental of £4739. Black/metallic/pearlescent paint optional at extra cost. Excess mileage charges may apply if the agreed annual mileage is exceeded. Payment of the optional final rental extends the rental term (this does not transfer title of the vehicle) & requires an annual rental equivalent to one month's rental. Finance subject to status. Written quotations available on request from Citroën Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1GA, UK. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. †Complimentary Servicing and Assistance Package: servicing expires at 36 months or 35,000 miles, whichever occurs sooner. Citroën Assistance expires at 36 months. For full details contact your dealer. Offers, prices & specification correct at time of going to press/publication from participating Dealer. Terms & conditions apply. Please ask us for details. Subject to stock availability. Finance offers apply to UK only.

Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO₂ emissions (g/km): Highest: New Citroën DS3 Cabrio THP 155 6-speed manual DSport 8.0/35.3, 4.8/58.9, 5.9/47.9, 137. Lowest: New Citroën DS3 Cabrio VTI 82 manual DSign 5.8/48.7, 4.3/65.7, 4.9/57.6, 112.

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JUST ADD FUEL® – THE ONLY PACKAGE TO INCLUDE 3 YEARS INSURANCE†



NEW PEUGEOT 208 ACCESS

FROM £149# PER MONTH
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WARRANTY
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PEUGEOT NEW 208

Car insurance. It's a biggie. So why is it left out from other packages? Only Just Add Fuel includes comprehensive insurance* with your monthly payments. So all you need to do is Just Add Fuel. And with the Peugeot 208 Access you'll get 65.7mpg, so those trips to the petrol station will be few and far between.

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MOTION & EMOTION



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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) for the 208 range are: Urban 34.9 – 78.4 (8.1 – 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 – 88.2 (4.5 – 3.2), Combined 48.7 – 83.0 (5.8 – 3.4) and CO₂ 135 – 87.

*Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk

†The first year Road Fund Licence (RFL) is included in the on the road price. The Dealer will provide customers with a cheque equivalent to twice the current RFL cost. The customer must apply for years 2 & 3 RFL.

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APRIL big bubbly busty 21yr old female who enjoys nights in/out, music, WLTM caring, loving older male, 30-45yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 402789

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TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tic, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395759

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JULIE cute blonde blue eyed flirty female 31, looking for laidback dates and fun times with older confident male, 40-55yrs with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401833

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, adult fun times and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401591

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship, 50 plus. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400949

TRACY slim blue eyed blonde, likes nights out, travel, commitment phobic, looking for understanding professional male for mutually convenient meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401579

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 402041

MID 80's female, young in mind, seeks male for dancing, days out, company and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401157

SARA young fun and sick of being single, trendy, well presented, very attractive, loves good food/wine, keeping fit, fast cars, looking to fall in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401543

I'M Carol 39, slim, blonde with legs 11, passionate by nature, loves tic and looking for similar solvent male for fun times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401467

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kint, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394106

JANINE petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls, WLTM interesting appreciative, independent man for Itr. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400803

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KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, wltn similar genuine male to wine/dine enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopes to fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400793

CHANTELLE 40yr old slim sensual confident female who loves to party, seeking older male for fun dates without complications. Any age/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400465

JACKIE lonely discreet 30's female with many interests, WLTM kind professional male to share nice times with. Status/age/looking unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400451

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring fun man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400263

CLARE 37 attractive slim with long dark hair and big brown eyes, WLTM genuine male who is honest, sincere and won't waste my time or break my heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400199

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, with tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395727

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395717

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 399245

MADLINE 5ft black, seeks white/black male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 375789

43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, honest, open relationship, 50 plus. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 402945

SAM pretty petite, fit, sensual brunette, divorced with two children, looking for genuine, tactile guy who wants to meet someone special like me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 398763

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty size 10, loves to keep in shape and look good, WLTM sincere man to make my life complete, call if you're him. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 398757

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, sensual and seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 397389

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393469

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395051

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 397681

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTM honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395675

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PUNK male 49, slim, piercings, trendy, friendly, down to earth, seeks similar in slim female, 40-50 for dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 402989

GAY male, 49, slim, 5ft 5ins, seeking younger guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton/Stafs. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 402545

ASIAN male, 45, 5ft 9ins, slim, caring, loyal, GSOH, WLTM female, 35-45 for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 402493

OPEN-MINDED blue eyed, dark haired loving male, seeks genuine, fun loving female for nights in/out and weekend away. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 402313

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PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401875

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MARK 36, seeking fun, outgoing male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401723

STEVE 54 bl, non scene, seeking guy of similar age or older for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401465

OLDER male, outgoing, sporty, seeking younger man fun and friendship, slim-medium build, active, hairy. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401225

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391849

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NEWS

01691 668094

Auction at dinner will boost charity

TWO-time winner of the RSPCA Good Business Award, The Navigation Inn, in Maesbury Marsh is holding a charity auction dinner on Friday, March 22.

It starts at 7pm with a three-course meal, followed by an auction of donated goods and promises. All proceeds will go to the Blue Cross animal-rescue charity who rescue, rehabilitate and re-home unwanted and abandoned pets.

The RSPCA Good Business Award recognises companies with animal welfare at the heart of their business, making The Navigation the perfect venue for the event, priced at £13 per head, with an optional donation of £5 per person.

Companies have donated lots which diners can bid for, including one red and one white case of Running Duck wine from Tanners Wine Merchants, a horse-drawn boat trip from Llangollen Wharf and a night in the Imperial Hotel, Llandudno.

Biker in crash

A MOTORCYCLIST escaped serious injury after his vehicle was involved in a collision with a car in Oswestry. The rider was checked by paramedics after the crash between his Suzuki motorcycle and a Volkswagen Polo.

Students' skills put to the test in college competition

by Graham Breeze

STUDENTS from across Britain gathered in Oswestry to showcase their skills and abilities that are preparing them for the workplace.

The first inclusive skills competition run by the Association of National Specialist Colleges was held at the Derwen College.

Students from the college learn job skills in the successful enterprises there, from the coffee shop and restaurant to garden centre and farm shop.

The competition for disabled students saw them taking part in six events – Display your Wares, Housekeeping for Hens, Introduction to a Gym, Gift of the Gab, The Band and Cloud 9 Film Festival.

Judges from top businesses were involved in the judging.

For instance, Display your Wares saw students from across the country judged on their retail display skills by industry experts from 'The White Room', The Co-operative Food and Selfridges.

Alison Boulton, chief executive of Natspec, said: "Natspec believes competitions are a healthy way to prepare our students for the workplace, whilst giving them the chance to show off the independent living skills they've learnt at college."

"We wanted to set up some inclusive competitions giving students with learning difficulties or disabilities the kind of facilities, support and time they needed to enjoy competitions fairly."

The competitions were set up in response to work by WorldSkills UK which believes vocational skills competitions help students in the Further Education sector to



Robin Ferguson and Emily Gray with their display at the Derwen College national NATSPEC skills competition in Gobowen.

prove their work readiness, enabling them to practice skills and abilities they have picked up at college in a realistic environment.

Volunteered

The Co-operative Food company not only sponsored the event, Co-operative staff members volunteered at the event.



Adam McArthur car washing at the Derwen College national NATSPEC skills competition in Gobowen.

Derwen College has a strong relationship with The Co-op store in Gobowen, where two students are doing work experience.

Laura Thomas, store manager, who helped judge the retail competition final said: "We have been impressed by the students from Derwen College."

"It is important that big businesses like The Co-operative help to support young job-

seekers with disabilities as it is healthy to have a diverse workforce."

Natspec is the membership organisation for more than 76 colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, providing teaching and support for young people with learning difficulties, sensory impairments, physical disabilities or multiple and complex disabilities.

Fear over new care hotline dismissed

HEALTH chiefs say patients' safety will not be compromised by a new out-of-hours care hotline despite a claim by an Oswestry councillor that the changes 'will cause deaths'.

The service, which will be implemented in Shropshire in the coming months, will see patients dial 111 rather than Shropdoc directly.

However, they will be passed on to the Shropdoc service should they require GP treatment or advice.

Oswestry town councillor Paul Milner, who serves on Plas Ffynnon Medical Centre patients group, told a council meeting: "All the patient groups in Oswestry are getting together about this and raising concerns."

But Dr Peter Clowes, 111 clinical lead for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin CCGs, said: "We would like to reassure residents that we have been working closely with NHS 111 to ensure that the service is safe. The NHS 111 service will undergo local and national testing before being approved by the Department of Health."

He added: "We know that one potential risk could be an increase in ambulance and A&E attendances. We are aware of this and have been working closely with NHS 111, the ambulance service and local hospitals to put in place measures to minimise this risk."



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NEWS

01691 668094

Hospital leading the way post-op

PATIENTS getting out of bed and walking around just hours after major surgery has become the norm at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital thanks to pioneering pain and recovery programmes.

The hospital is leading the way in getting patients back on their feet more quickly than before, the trust board has been told and part of the success is down to a programme to tackle post-operation pain.

Sister Nicky Williams from the hospital's acute pain service said a major project has been running at the hospital over several years looking at how various treatments can decrease pain and allow patients to become mobile quicker.

She said the project had paid dividends and had seen a fall in pain suffered by patients in the first 48 hours after surgery and an increase in patients who reported they were suffering no pain in the first two days after an operation.

Sister Williams said the enhanced recovery programme and the use of treatment to ease pain had raised the public's and surgeons' expectations on how quickly patients should be up and about.

She said: "It is becoming normal practice.

"Patients expect to get up on the day of surgery."

New families support group set up after chance meeting

TWO mums have set up a social and support group for families – after a chance meeting at a children's activities centre in Shropshire.

Gina Cox-Roberts, of Knockin Heath, and Stripe Issitt, of Oswestry, met at a soft play venue in Oswestry when they took their toddlers there to play last month.

After chatting the parents realised that neither family was a traditional heterosexual one, and they decided to set up a group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or those Questioning (LGBTQ) families with children.

The group is called BBs (Rainbow Families Shropshire) and was launched on Facebook.

by Chrissy Symmons

Landmark for charity event

A CHARITY fundraiser held in scenic hills near Oswestry will be celebrating a special landmark this year.

The Dairi-Pak Mountain Bike Challenge has raised £100,000 for charities over the years and this year celebrates its 20th birthday.

Organised by Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club, the challenge sees riders of all ages take on a 22-mile route through the Berwyn mountains near the village of Rhylwas.

Jonathan Jones, from the rotary club, said: "Last year we broke the £100,000 barrier so it is a very special few years for a very popular annual event. The money raised goes to the Air Ambulance and Rotary charities and it has become a very important fundraising event."

Forms are available from Stuart Barkley Cycles in Oswestry. They are also available by visiting www.borderlandbikechallenge.co.uk and downloading the information.

It is growing rapidly with more than 27 people. Gina, who has two children aged five and two years old, said: "It was so refreshing to be able to talk about our backgrounds with no sense of caution or the need to explain how our children were conceived."

"Although we've never experienced much prejudice about our family, there is something about being around another family who have walked a similar path that makes conversation so easy and comfortable. It's a real pleasure."

"I wanted to have a network. The only networks were on line. I made lots of virtual friends."

"We met one family online in Shropshire but then it was a chance meeting in the soft play venue."

"The new group is partly for ourselves and also for the children to grow up with some of their friends with two mums."

Stripe said: "It has always been important to us that our daughter doesn't feel isolated because her family is different. Now we know, through this group, that is never going to happen because she will always have friends who are in a similar situation."

They are currently exploring possibilities for funding to help them promote the group and are hoping to run their first Rainbow Family Picnic in the spring.

More information can be found on the group's Facebook page www.facebook.com/RainbowFamiliesShropshire



Having fun, (in no order), Gina and Brenna Cox-Roberts, Stripe and Olly-Anna Blackburn Issitt, Emma and Alex Milrose. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

Councillor is sorry to see plans approved

A PARISH councillor who led a campaign against plans to build homes in a canalside village says she is disappointed to have lost the battle.

A total of 81 people wrote to Shropshire Council objecting to the outline plan for seven properties, including three affordable homes, in Chirk Bank, but Shropshire Councillors approved it at their north planning committee meeting.

Chirk Bank resident Angela Bright, chairwoman of the village's community group and a member of Weston Rhyn Parish Council, said the decision was a blow to villagers.

Councillor Bright said: "We are very disappointed because so many people wrote in and the campaign had such strong support."

"Everyone worked very hard. We just don't think we have the infrastructure to cope with more homes."

She said the parish council's support for the application was 'crucial' in the final decision.

She said: "I didn't agree with the parish council and I think the parish council's backing was crucial for the application."

Mrs Bright added that she disagreed with planning officers who said the proposed homes would not impact upon the nearby Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site.

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NEWS

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Protester bound over to keep the peace

A FORMER Oswestry man who attempted to disrupt a planning committee meeting in the town has been bound over to keep the peace.

John Edwards, 60, was arrested on March 5 after attempting to get into a meeting of the north planning committee at Castle View in Oswestry.

The protester, who is involved in a long-running planning dispute, said council officers stopped him from entering the offices over fears he would disrupt proceedings.

Police were called and he was taken to Shrewsbury Police Station where he spent the night.

He was released the next morning after attending Shrewsbury Magistrates Court and agreeing to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months.

It is the third time Mr Edwards has been arrested in recent weeks over the row.

Mr Edwards had been taken away by police after he disrupted a planning meeting in Oswestry on February 5.

He was arrested again at Shrewsbury's Shirehall offices two days later.

Mr Edwards, who now lives in Birmingham, is involved in a planning row over vehicles driving over a strip of land he owns at Madog Place in Oswestry.

Councillors' wind farm fears welcomed by campaigners

SHROPSHIRE councillors' decision to voice fears over plans to build wind farms and pylons in the region could be 'vital' in the battle to halt the controversial projects, campaigners said.

A full meeting of Shropshire Council saw councillors back a motion formally expressing fears about the potential impact of the plans.

The concerns have been sparked by plans for wind farms in Mid Wales and a proposal by National Grid to build a power line from Cefn Coch to Lower Frankton near Oswestry to take the power generated by the turbines to the national electricity network.

by Iain St John

War centenary sensitivity call

PLANS to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War with events in Oswestry's main public park must be carried out with sensitivity, a town councillor has said.

The town council-led group responsible for running Cae Glas Park has been looking at ideas for what should be done next year to mark the anniversary.

A report to the council's amenities committee said various ideas had been discussed. It said: "One idea was to make over the garden at the bowling green opposite the pavilion with plants from that era and a community event to decorate tiles on the theme to be fixed to the wall."

Councillor Betty Gull told last week's meeting that whatever was decided had to have the correct tone.

Councillor Gull said: "I am quite happy to celebrate 1918 – the end of this dreadful occurrence – but nobody in their right sense would look to celebrate 1914."

Shropshire councillors backed a motion by Llanymynech councillor Arthur Walpole asking for them to express concern about the 'potential detrimental impact' on the county.

The councillors agreed the authority should take part in the planning process of both projects to ensure the interests of Shropshire communities were 'fully and effectively represented'.

Campaigners on both sides of the Shropshire/Welsh border have joined together to form The Alliance to fight the energy plans.

Delighted

Jonathan Wilkinson from the group said he was delighted Shropshire councillors had backed the motion.

The group asked for the postponement of the hearing, set to take place in June in Welshpool, amid claims there was not enough information for a proper decision to be taken.

The group's request has been passed on to energy secretary Edward Davey.

Mr Wilkinson said: "I have said all along Shropshire is key to this. This will affect the whole region. We need the strong support and their backing."

"We are currently waiting for the secretary of state's response to our request."

The inquiry in the summer will look at proposed wind farms at Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llaithddu, Llandinam, Llanbryn-mair and Carnedd Wen in Mid Wales.

Enjoying a taste of Big Apple



Marches School pupils pose for the camera in New York.

STUDENTS at The Marches School have enjoyed a bite of the Big Apple – four months after they were supposed to visit New York.

More than 100 students from Oswestry school were set to visit the city in October but Hurricane Sandy put paid to the trip.

The visit was rescheduled by the organisers and the school's biennial trip took place during half term earlier this month.

School spokeswoman Amy Gregory said a

group of 117 students and staff took part and described the visit as a 'cold but resounding success'.

Ruth Lloyd, deputy headteacher and trip leader, said: "This truly was a fabulous trip."

"It was non-stop from the minute we arrived as our itinerary covered such a vast amount, in a relatively short space of time. The students thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it."

Tenants face rent increase of 4.88pc

MORE than 4,000 Shropshire council house tenants are to see their rents go up by more than £180 a year after an increase was voted through by councillors.

A 4.88 per cent increase in rents on 4,200 properties run by Shropshire Council was approved at Shirehall. The changes will see rates rise by an average £3.55 per week from April.

The Liberal Democrats proposed to cap the rent rise at 2.4 per cent for the next financial year. But the idea was rejected after the ruling Conservative group said it would result in an even higher rents hike in 2014.

Liberal Democrat councillor Roger Evans said this year's rent increase followed a 7.9 per cent hike in 2012/13 and a 6.9 per cent rise in 2011/12.

The average weekly rent is currently £72.75 and this will now go up to £76.30.

The majority of Shropshire Council's housing stock is in the Oswestry area and the former Bridgnorth district.

Link up praised

PLANS to preserve a police presence in Ellesmere won the backing of West Mercia's police and crime commissioner Bill Longmore. He said proposals to set up a room at Ellesmere fire station would be a 'good move'.



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NEWS

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Motorists accused of parking on graves

THOUGHTLESS motorists are parking on graves at an Oswestry churchyard and damaging kerbs, town councillors have heard.

The actions of motorists who are abusing the parking at St Oswald's Churchyard have been described as 'disturbing' by one councillor.

There is limited parking at the churchyard and people are encouraged to park nearby rather than on the site, especially when a funeral is being held.

But town councillor Cynthia Hawksley said she had become increasingly concerned about people who use the churchyard for parking.

She told the town council's amenities committee meeting some motorists seemed to be unaware that by parking over kerbs at the churchyard car park, they were actually parking on graves.

She said: "People will park and they will go over the kerb and they are actually parking on graves. I find it quite disgusting."

The councillor said she was also concerned people using the churchyard as a parking spot were causing problems for funeral mourners to access the site.

She said at one recent funeral she was worried there would not be enough spaces for the people actually attending the service.

Police crackdown results in a month without burglaries

A POLICE crackdown on break-ins at Oswestry has been a success – with no house burglaries being reported in February.

Sergeant Scott Barnes, of West Mercia Police, said the figures for Oswestry were a result of Operation Citadel, a force wide initiative to halt burglaries across the West Mercia force area, and because homeowners were taking extra security precautions. He said incidents of house burglaries had previously become a problem.

Sergeant Barnes said: "There was no reports of house burglaries in the Oswestry area in the last month."

by Iain St John

High Sherriff angry at fines

THE High Sheriff of Shropshire has spoken out against the growing number of on-the-spot fines and community resolutions orders being handed out by police.

John Abram, from Oswestry, said out-of-court disposal orders could mask the underlying problem that made someone offend.

And he said, while they had their place, the orders did not act as a deterrent.

The High Sheriff has had to stand down from the magistrates' bench in Shropshire while serving his year long appointment.

"I can not speak for the magistrates but, during my time as High Sheriff, I have become increasingly worried about the increase in community resolution orders and on-the-spot fines," he said.

Community resolutions are ways police can deal with petty offences, including shoplifting, disturbances, criminal damage like graffiti and anti-social behaviour.

Mr Abram said: "What worries me is that these things are handed out on-the-spot."

"It is all down to work done by the force. At one stage there was quite a number of house burglaries throughout the area."

"We have had Operation Citadel, a force wide initiative, aimed at driving down the numbers of house burglaries."

Operation Citadel has been targeting burglars and so far more than 600 people have been arrested by police in the crackdown, Sergeant Barnes said.

Target

He added that a target has been set for no more than 10 burglaries to occur each day throughout the force area.

Sergeant Barnes said the public could help meet those targets by keeping their homes more secure and reporting any suspicious activity.

During a meeting of Oswestry Local Joint Committee, Sergeant Barnes was asked how aware officers in Oswestry were of hate crime against the disabled.

He said any incident which had an element of hate crime, including disability, was recorded as such.

Oswestry resident John Bickerton said he was worried a police shake-up announced last week would lead to the reduction of officers in Oswestry.

Shropshire Councillor Martin Bennett said the restructuring of the police was still taking place and the situation would be clearer in the near future.

Ex-home to be handed to school



Sarah Longville and Arthur Walpole outside the former care home

GOVERNORS of Shropshire's largest school have taken another step towards creating a sixth form.

Oswestry's Marches School is converting the town's Fairholme care home into classrooms, and last week saw the transfer of the building into its control.

Sarah Longville, head of the Marches School, said it would take possession of the building in April, as soon as it became vacant, and work would begin immediately.

She said: "Sustainable development is integral to the school's plans for the Sixth Form and the re-development of the Fairholme building for educational purposes will have considerable benefits for both the school and wider community."

Arthur Walpole, chairman of governors said: "The sixth form will provide the school with a tremendous opportunity to improve a range of facilities."

The school converted to an academy on August 1, 2011, the first to do so within Shropshire. The school is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted and will opening an academic Sixth Form in September 2013.

Hospital reporting wait time progress

NEW FIGURES show Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is making progress on increasing the number of patients it treats following criticism from a health watchdog about missed waiting time targets.

The performance failures last year the orthopaedic sparked a review by Monitor, the body which regulates foundation trust hospitals.

Monitor bosses found that the hospital had not been in 'significant breach' of its foundation trust authorisation but said improvements had to be made on meeting 18-week Referral To Treatment targets.

Patients should undergo treatment within 18 weeks of being referred.

Gobowen hospital bosses were told that if improvements were not made, it could face an escalation process, where action can be taken against the trust.

A report to the trust board meeting said progress was being made.

In January, 90.15 per cent of admitted patients were treated within 18 weeks against a target of 90 per cent while 95.67 per cent of non-admitted patients were seen within 18 weeks against a target of 95 per cent.

Work continues to reduce the number of patients waiting at every stage prior to treatment.

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NEWS

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School's proposal on pupils' transport

AN outline travel plan to encourage pupils to cycle or walk to Shropshire's first all-through school has been lodged with council planners.

And a plan detailing a new car park and where pupils will be dropped off at St Martins School has also been submitted.

The plans come after parish councillors rejected initial proposals for the new £3.14 million school over concerns about transport – in particular where the school's younger children would be dropped off.

The school is due to open on a new larger campus next year after a controversial merger last year between the village's Rhyn Park secondary school and its Ifton Heath primary school.

The school will offer education to primary and secondary school age children when it opens at the current Rhyn Park site.

The travel plan framework lodged with Shropshire Council says: "The amalgamation of the two schools on a single site will provide an all through school facility and will be the first of its kind in Shropshire."

It said: "In conjunction with the school travel plan highway infrastructure improvements are to be promoted to provide a safer route to school."

Grant for young musicians to start town stomp band

YOUNGSTERS wanting to start up their own band using recycled items as instruments have been awarded £250 funding.

The new street drumming group, Urban Pulse, will be starting in the town for those aged 10 to 19. It will see young people of all backgrounds and abilities getting involved with music having fun and being creative.

Mike Lade, spokesman, said a street band, sometimes called a stomp band, is a drumming group that uses recycled plastic five litre buckets, 25 litre tubs, 40 litre containers and plastic dust bins as drums. And this week those working to set up the band have received a cheque for £250 from Borderland Rotary Club, which means youngsters will not have to pay joining fees.

by Graham Breeze

Gipsy removal bid has failed

SHROPSHIRE Council has failed in a High Court bid to remove a gipsy family from a site they have moved on to without planning permission, it has been revealed.

Councillor David Lloyd said officials at Shirehall made a legal challenge before Christmas to force Michelle and Jerry Berry and their family off land opposite Gobowen's Henlle Park Golf Club. But a judge sitting in Birmingham did not grant the enforcement order, he said.

Councillor Lloyd, who represents Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn on the authority, told the local joint committee meeting in Gobowen he hoped the battle with the Berry family would come to a conclusion imminently.

The judge refused the bid because the couple had lodged a planning application to be allowed to stay on land near the golf club, even though an earlier bid was rejected.

"The second bid is being dealt with pretty imminently," he added.

Jay Moore, of Fusion Arts Oswestry, will be co-ordinating the band from The Centre in Oak Street. He said: "We are very grateful to Borderland Rotary Club for their very welcome donation. This money will help these young people to start learning how to make music from everyday objects and have fun doing it in a big group."

Free

"This cheque means we now have enough money to make Urban Pulse completely free. All expenses can now be paid and the youngsters won't have to pay for it. The first session will be on March 16 and we have got a good numbers signed up already."

He said he would like to see a lot of youngsters from the town join up. "Hopefully the children will get to make a chunk of new friends," Mr Moore said.

Mr Moore is a professional drum teacher and one of the founders of FAO. He said he hopes the freestyle nature of the band and the physical exercise required will spark young people into being creative and work together as a team to create a unique style.

Any young people who want to take part can go along to the launch of the band on March 16 from 12pm at The Centre in Oak Street. For more details visit www.urbanpulse.co.uk e-mail urbanpulse.sy11@yahoo.co.uk or call (01691) 650854.

Prostate cancer check call



Oswestry 41 Club members, from left, treasurer Dave Thomas, Chris Griffiths, president Dave Mathews, president elect Alan Cockram, Steve Theobald and secretary David Parry-Jones, who were photographed by the national President.

MEN in The Marches should be marching straight to their doctors demanding a blood test to detect prostate problems.

The advice came at a '41 Club' cluster at Garthmyl, attended by ex Round Tablers that including Oswestry, Welshpool, and Montgomery, meeting at the Lakeside Golf Club, and was given by 41 Club's national president David Smith.

"I lost my father, who painfully died of prostate cancer 40 years ago. So when I was

elected to national office I ensured the national charity during my year would be to raise funds into researching this debilitating disease," he revealed.

And while giving his 'go to your doctor as soon as you can and get tested' message, he reminded ageing 41ers that the incidences of prostate cancer were rising alarmingly all over the country.

The meeting was chaired by Montgomery Town Mayor and 41-er Mark Michaels.

Student mentors offer aid to others

STUDENTS at an Oswestry college are getting by with a little help from their friends, thanks to a highly successful peer mentoring scheme.

Teenagers at Walford and North Shropshire College who feel they need a bit of advice or a friendly ear but do not want to approach staff can use the services of the scheme.

Half a dozen students volunteer to be peer mentors with drop-in sessions at lunchtimes at the Oswestry and Walford campuses.

Peer mentor, Poppy Goringe, 19, said: "Students are told that they can come along and see us to talk about any problems."

"Sometimes it is because they feel they need some extra help with studying or managing their revision sometimes they may be struggling to make friends or have other issues. We can talk on a one-to-one basis and provide advice or find out where they can get help."

"We all feel that it is a very worthwhile thing to do. When people start talking you often see the relief in their faces that they are sharing their problem."

Poppy said she would like to go on to use the skills she has gained to follow a career in supporting others.

Recently the peer mentors raised £139.81 for the Samaritans with a cake sale.

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FEATURES & NEWS

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Councillor praises experiment success

SHROPSHIRE Council's local joint committee 'experiment' has worked and has helped motivate new community projects and partnerships, a councillor has said.

The unitary authority's speaker Councillor David Lloyd was speaking after chairing the final meeting of the local joint committee which serves Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn before Shropshire Council's first four-year term comes to a close.

He said: "This may have been something of an experiment when first set up but it has certainly proved its worth here and also county-wide.

"The idea was to encourage our three parish councils and other established organisations at grass roots level to give the locality a focus and to channel funds in support of existing groups and to motivate new community initiatives."

Councillor Lloyd said he felt the partnerships set up by the local joint committee helped bring Big Lottery funding of £1 million to Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn.

He said: "I would claim that demonstrating our ability to work together possibly helped the nationally funded Big Lottery establish a basis through which to bring new money into the area."

Our dream came true when children's hospice opened

OPENING Hope House Children's Hospice was 'a dream come true', says the chairman of its trustees Barbara Evans.

The 59-year-old spent five years of her own time helping to set up the hospice in Morda, near Oswestry, while juggling a full-time job in children's services.

"I was involved with Hope House Children's Hospice right from the very beginning when it started as an idea in September 1990," she said. "I became chairman of the trustees in 1995."

The vision for the hospice started from the idea of parents whose child, called Hope, had a life limited condition. A meeting was arranged in Shrewsbury and her idea snowballed from there.

Barbara said: "I went to the meeting and became very much involved with the planning of Hope House. It was a lot of very interesting, hard work."

At the time she was the head of Children's Services for Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin. She also worked for the then government initiative Every Child Matters, which aimed to make sure youngsters are healthy, safe and active.

Barbara said: "On top of working we were planning Hope House. We would be going out to meet people across north Wales and into Cheshire, Powys and Shropshire. We told them 'this is what our dream is, to raise money for the children's hospice'."

The group wanted to have the hospice based on the border of Wales, Shropshire and Cheshire to be able to provide services for youngsters from a wide area. When they had enough cash they looked for land and settled on some in Morda.

Fundraising continued and they were promised a generous cash donation from the Bradbury Trust which would be given to them if they could guarantee the hospice would be open by 1995.

Barbara said: "We took that offer, we got the land and raised the money. We opened in 1995 and it was a dream come true.

"To achieve it in five years, to raise

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Chrissy Symmons



enough money to build it, a dream come true.

The trustees now have two hospices, the second one in Conwy, North Wales, which opened five years later in 2000.

"We now need £5 million to run the two," Barbara said.

Since the hospice opened Barbara has found her work is different now. In the beginning it was a hands on approach but now staff have been employed.

"As a group of trustees we still meet with the staff," she said. "We are very much involved with getting reports from staff. It is a lot of interesting work.

"It is never work you take on begrudgingly, even if you are tired.

"The children there are happy and it is a lovely atmosphere."

Barbara has always lived in Shropshire and has spent many years of her working life in the social work field.

She is now retired but is still busy and, as part of her many interests, she is secretary for two garden clubs.



Chairman of Hope House trustees Barbara Evans. Picture: Laura Duffield.

Skate park effort is awarded cash aid

YOUNGSTERS are a step closer to getting a skate park in Llanymynech.

Members of Llanymynech Youth Club have been working towards a project to buy mobile skate park equipment for the playing fields. The project also includes plans for a permanent base for the equipment, which would be taken up and stored when not in use.

The youth club has been given a £750 cash boost for the project from the St Oswald and Llanymynech Local Joint Committee.

For the last two summers the club has brought mobile ramps to the village hall car park for them to use through a scheme organised by Shropshire Youth.

The events became so popular with young people that they decided they wanted to make it available on a more permanent basis.

The cost of the project is estimated at about £5,000.

Funding request applications have been sent out to a different grant bodies including the Mary Hignett Bequest Fund and the Charlotte Hartley Foundation.

The youngsters have also raised £300.

As part of their work on the project the young people went to the Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council where they gave councillors a presentation.



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01691 668094

College will offer new diploma to teachers

COLLEGES have been involved in the development of a new course to help teachers learn how to teach children with learning difficulties.

Walford and North Shropshire College, Derwen College and Staffordshire University are currently running the pilot diploma.

The course is accredited by the university under the umbrella of Walford and North Shropshire College using the expertise of staff from Derwen College.

It is aimed at teachers who are working in colleges, schools, training organisations or the voluntary sector and want to improve their understanding of learning difficulties.

It includes teaching students who have Asperger Syndrome, autism, Down's Syndrome and Attention Deficit Disorder.

This course will provide teachers with the specialist knowledge and skills to ensure that these students are given the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed.

Katie McCombe, initial teacher training co-ordinator at the college, said: "The launch of this diploma puts local organisations once again, ahead of the game."

For more information e-mail k.mccombe@wnsc.ac.uk or call (01691) 668041.

Plenty to irritate and wonder at in winter hedgerows

WALKING along a Salopian hedgerow in winter can be both an irritation and a wonder.

An irritation because of the stark, meddlesome fruits of the arctium plant and a wonder due to the delicate intricacies of the corylus avellana. I feel a much needed explanation coming on.

Wander down any aforementioned hedgerow at this time of the year and you'll most likely be greeted by a fairly drab scene. Spring is (apparently) just round the corner, but as of yet there is very little colour amongst the blackthorn and brambles.

At the beginning of the year there may have been a few red berries hidden from the prying eyes of the fieldfares and redwings, but these are most likely now gone. However look a little closer and you may well find a cluster of yellows and auburns. You've found a hazel tree.

With their bright yellow, drooping catkins, the hazel offers a glimmer of 'better things to come' and cheers the hearts on an otherwise cold and damp morning stroll with the dog. But instead of passing by, take a closer look and you'll find something rather fascinating; a tiny anemone poking out from the odd bud here and there.

The yellow catkins that brought you here are the flamboyant male parts of the hazel tree, but what about the female parts?

These are the minute, pink anemone-like protuberances that can be found bursting forth from the green-brown buds along the branches. You have to look hard and not all hazel trees will exhibit them now, but once you've found one, you'll have you're 'eye in' and many more will make themselves apparent.

When the female part is pollinated, via the wind, from the male part, a seed grows. Although the resultant nuts

ON THE WILD SIDE with Ben Waddams

are edible, hazel trees today are mainly grown and pruned back severely each year to harvest the smooth reddish-brown stems, which have toughness and elasticity.

The wood makes hampers, hoops, wattles, shepherds' crooks, walking sticks, fishing rods, whip handles and other rustic items such as seats and baskets for gardens. In Celtic folklore the nuts are a symbol of mystical wisdom, don't ask me why.

But from wonder, to annoyance, Arctium, otherwise known as the burdock, is stripped of its leaves at the moment and if you have never had to pull their burrs from your dog's hair, or even your hair, then you're a luckier person than I.

As long suffering walkers know, the seeds or 'burrs' of this plant are incredibly sticky. But not sticky in the wet, tacky, gluey sense, but instead acting as a natural Velcro, hooking themselves onto any passing hairy body and waiting until the disenchanted party realises they've been 'burred' and tries to rid themselves of the object. In so doing, the seeds of course are deposited anew.

Like the hazel, the burdock plant can also be used in various forms by frugal walkers and landowners. 'Dandelion and burdock' is an obvious shout, but the root of the younger plants can also be skinned and cooked as you would a parsnip or turnip in the oven. Perhaps you'll agree with me; a fitting punishment for all those exasperating burrs.

Ben's wildlife art can be seen online at www.waddams.webs.com



Hedgerows can be an irritation and a wonder, says Ben Waddams.



The male and female parts of the Hazel tree.

Charity is offering chance to meet JLS

TWO fans of the pop band JLS will have the chance to meet their idols at this year's Osfest music festival.

The Evie's Dream charity has been given two weekend camping passes to the festival, which takes place at Park Hall near Oswestry in May.

And the lucky winners will also have the chance to meet and greet the members of JLS.

Evie's Dream is raising money to pay for physiotherapy for five year old Evie-Lou Harrington, who is currently in America undergoing treatment to help her walk.

The little girl from Llangynog has had two operations in the last fortnight at the St Louis Hospital in Missouri, both of which were paid for by the appeal.

Speaking from America her mum, Donna, said she was thrilled with the news of the donation.

She said details will be on the Evie's Dream website and Facebook page over the coming weeks.

Homes approved

THE Wrekin Housing Trust has been granted planning permission by Shropshire Council to build 11 affordable homes for rent on Wharf Road in Ellesmere, and is tendering for a developer to build them.

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Spoilt for choice with quality music

GIG GUIDE

with Edward
Roberts



FOR those with a taste for classical music, the world renowned Endellion String Quartet will be performing at Holy Trinity Church, Oswestry, on Monday.

Considered one of the finest quartets in the world, they will be performing all nine movements of Joseph Haydn's famous orchestral work 'Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross'.

If that's not enough to get you excited they will also joined be former Poet Laureate, Sir Andrew Motion, who will be reading specially written passages between movements.

The piece they are performing was originally commissioned in 1785 for the Good Friday service at Cadiz Cathedral in southern Spain; Haydn later adapted the work for string quartet in 1787.

The Endellion String Quartet is made up of Andrew Watkinson and Ralph de Souza on violin, Garfield Jackson on viola and David Waterman on cello.

The performance is part of series of shows to mark the quartet's 30th season, which has also seen them commission new pieces, as well as the release of a DVD and box set of the quartet performing Beethoven's work.

Entering their 34th year, the quartet will be spending much of 2013 touring the US and Canada, as well as perform-



Whalebone will perform live at Llanymynech Village Hall.

ing concerts in Eire, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Holland, Mexico and India.

The concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £16 for adults, £8 for children. Call (01691) 681135.

You're spoilt for choice this week when it comes to quality music, as Whalebone will be bringing their 2013 tour to the village hall in Llanymynech tomorrow (Friday).

The Shropshire instrumental three piece play energy-infused acoustic music and hauntingly beautiful tunes, influenced by the likes of Fairport Convention and Led Zeppelin.

The tour is in support of their forthcoming album, Runes. They will also be performing numbers from their award winning album, Three Fires.

The gig will start at 7.30pm with

tickets costing £7.50 for adults and £4 for children.

If you fancy yourself as a singer/songwriter, head down to the Ironworks tomorrow night when the venue will be launching its 2013 competition to find the best in the area. You must perform at least one original song. First prize is £500 and entry forms are available at the Ironworks.

It starts at 9pm and entry is free. Singer/songwriter Joe Seager is back at the Royal Oak in Welshpool by popular demand tomorrow night. It starts at 9pm and entry is free.

Also tomorrow Eddy Gartry will be bringing his brand of gritty R'n'B to the Lowfield Inn, Marton.

The gig starts at 8pm and entry is free.

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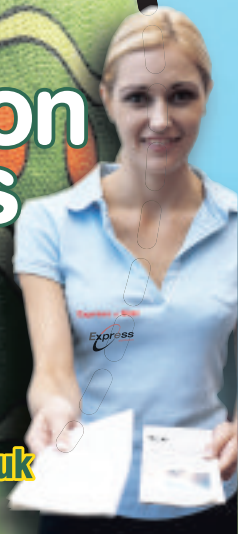
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THE ARTS

01691 668094

Privilege to hear sounds of Italy from orchestra



It's wall to wall musicians – as members of Oswestry Sinfonia lavishly entertained music-lovers at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday night.

WHAT a luxury for the town to have the 40-strong talented bunch of musicians in Oswestry Sinfonia who can easily match the best musicians in the country for quality and entertainment

It was a privileged audience at Holy Trinity Church last Saturday which warmed to Italian flavoured music by Schubert, Vivaldi, and Mendelssohn, as the weather did its best to snow.

Under the baton of young conductor Richard Adamson the evening climaxed to the four contrasting movements from Mendelssohn's Symphony

by David Parry-Jones

No 4. Richard is a member of the Wrexham Symphony Orchestra, regularly leading the viola section.

But a further star of the night was guitar supremo Jonathan Neil Richards.

He played very delicate variations on French folk tunes, accompanied by the orchestra, after the audience had been treated to the opening piece of Schubert's Italian Overture in C.

That set the scene for a great evening of quality listening and Richards followed his French frivolity with a protracted and beautiful rendering of Vivaldi's Concerto for Guitar. As the recital continued, the orchestra was trimmed down, layer by layer, till only 10 players remained, under the direction of first violinist Huw Lloyd.

That, for me, that was the highlight of the evening radiating delicacy, feeling and atmosphere.

It was the four movements of Mendelssohn's Symphony No 4 that ended a fulfilling musical night, only marred by the number of empty seats. If you missed this delight, your next opportunity is when Oswestry Sinfonia plays at the same venue on Saturday June 15.

For tickets visit www.oswestrysinfonia.co.uk

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NOSTALGIA & NEWS

01691 668094

Hospital's history is subject of exhibition

THE story of the Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry will come to life in a unique exhibition next month.

On April 10 the conference centre at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital will host the 'Fractured Bones' exhibition from 10 am until 8pm.

The display will tell the story of orthopaedics through artefacts and archives.

It is being organised by Dave Adams, collection manager and foundation trust staff governor and Marie Carter, the Hospital Archives Officer.

Mr Adams said: "The archives cover the 113 year history of the hospital and its founders, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt, after whom the hospital is named.

The artefacts are a collection of items such as splints and calipers that, once they had been used by patients, were donated to the hospital for them to use in nurse training.

"This will be a unique opportunity to see the history of the orthopaedic hospital because, although the artefacts and archives have occasionally been seen separately, there has never been a combined display."

Entry is free with donations welcome for the Bone Cancer Centre Appeal.

Mystery disappearance of wartime friend is troubling

by Toby Neal

FOR nearly 70 years the sudden disappearance of the Kociras in Oswestry has been a mystery.

It seemed as if one moment they were there, the next they were spirited away. Was there an innocent explanation? Or could there be a more sinister explanation – and that the father was seized as a wartime spy, never to be heard of again?

It is something that John Powell of Oswestry would like to get to the bottom of – and so, of course, if you can shed any light on the matter, we would love to hear from you.

Picture query

HERE is a fine body of men, who look like soldiers from the First World War. They are pictured in Oswestry, standing outside a distinctive doorway. Does anybody recognise where it might be?

John explained: "During the Second World War I lived in Oak Drive, Oswestry and I played with neighbouring youngsters.

"During that time, there were a couple about my age who were, I think, Belgian named Paul and Eve Kocira. Kocira is a phonetic spelling and I have no idea whether or not it was correct.

"Paul and Eve and their parents moved away rather suddenly and the reason given to me was that their father was unmasked as a German spy.

"Occasionally I think about them and wonder if there could be an interesting story about the family.

"I have made a cursory search on the net but do not really know where to look.

"After this length of time, I am not quite sure of the year that this took place, but it would have been mid to late wartime.

"At the time, there was a POW camp at Mile End, roughly where the Esso services are now. Also, there was RAF Rednal, a Spitfire training airfield, just off the A5 at Queenshead. So I guess that there were things to spy on.

"This could be a complete waste of time and effort or it could be something of interest."

● If you can help with information about the Kociras, share your memories, and drop us a line.

Testing out new bowling green

"NEW dormitories and Bowling Green, Derwen Training College," is the caption printed on this old postcard which, as it was never posted, is undated, but we would imagine it is from the 1920s or 1930s. Picture courtesy of Ray Farlow.

Funding offer to aid work of groups

ORGANISERS of community projects in need of cash to boost their work are urged to apply for funding from councillors.

Money is available from Shropshire Council's St Oswald and Llanymynech Local Joint Committee fund. Community groups and projects eligible for a grant need to be based in Kinnersley, Knockin, Llanymynech, Llanymynech and Pant, Oswestry Rural, and Melverley parish areas. People have until May 7 to apply.

More than £5,000 was awarded to groups and projects in the St Oswald and Llanymynech area when the committee met on February 19 at Trefonen Village Hall.

The next round of funding will be awarded at the meeting on June 11 at Llanymynech Village Hall.

Councillor Arthur Walpole, chairman of the St Oswald and Llanymynech LJC, said: "These meetings provide a chance for people to tell councillors their views on local issues and services and to allow us to use our budget to benefit the local community. We hope the local community will continue to attend."

For more details call Corrie Davies, Shropshire Council community action officer, on (01691) 677306 or visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/communityworking.nsf

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Drive time with Graham Breeze



IT'S NOW possible to buy a new five door car and drive it away for less than £6,000 – no it's not April Fool's Day yet, it's true.

The Dacia is not commonly known in the UK but from humble beginnings, the Romanian brand has gone from strength to strength since Renault bought it in 1999 and transformed its fortunes.

Newly launched, the Dacia Sandero supermini is a revelation at just £5,995 and must be the biggest bargain on the road today.

The Sandero is not like any other 'cheap' model to hit the market. It's surprisingly well equipped, performs better than you could imagine and looks like a far more expensive model.

Kicking off the range is the aptly named Access. At £5,995, no other new car comes close for the same combination of price, space and equipment.

Dacia say that to get anywhere near it in terms of price for a similarly specified version of the Ford Fiesta, the UK's current best-selling supermini, you'd have to delve into the archives right back to 1989.

The entry-level version offers plenty of features, including 15" steel wheels, power assisted steering, a 60/40 split folding rear seat and even daytime running lights.

You don't get a radio but there's pre-wiring for an accessory fit radio and speaker system which will be available to buy through official Dacia Retailers.

Safety features include ABS with Emergency Brake Assist, ASR traction control, ESC (Elec-



The Dacia Sandero is stylish enough to grace any driveway

tronic Stability Control), driver, passenger and front side airbags and ISOFIX points in both outer rear seats

Available in white, its chunky five-door bodystyle is complemented well by contrasting black bumpers, door mirrors and handles.

Inside the cab it's hard to say things aren't basic but there's everything you need and all the controls are clear and exactly where you would expect to find them. One of the biggest surprises comes when you open the boot. There's 320 litres of space which transforms to 1,200 litres with the rear seats down.

For only £600 more, the mid-level Ambiance includes a radio/CD player with fingertip remote controls, USB and AUX input, Bluetooth™, remote central locking, electric front windows, body coloured bumpers and 15" 'Colorado' wheel trims.



There's a surprising amount of boot space

There's some plush interior touches such as chrome surrounds for the air vents, instrument dials and steering wheel logo.

The top-of-the-range versions are called Lauréate. Dacia expects up to two thirds of buyers to plump for them. With three available, starting from £7,995, just £2,000 more than the entry version, it's not hard to see why. The range topper gets air conditioning, heated and electrically adjustable door mirrors, cruise control and electric rear windows as standard

There's even an optional fully-integrated 7-inch touchscreen navigation and multimedia system for just £250 – little more than a hand-held device from Halfords.

The four-cylinder 1.2 petrol delivers 47.9 mpg on the combined cycle with CO2 emissions of 137g/km, enough for road tax band E. That means road tax of only £10 per month.



The Dacia's top of the range models are called Lauréate

The second engine for Dacia's new supermini is the TCe 90. Its new to the brand after debuting in the Renault Clio with the added bonus of Stop&Start technology. In Sandero, the 0.9-litre three-cylinder turbocharged unit is capable of 109 mpg, with fuel economy of 54.3 mpg and CO2 emissions of just 120 g/km.

That adds up to just £30 in road tax every year, with absolutely zero to pay in the first.

The dCi 90 has a 1.5-litre diesel size and delivers 74.3 mpg and sub-100 grams of CO2 per kilometre emissions. In other words, you don't owe the taxman a penny when it comes to road fund licence. The two top engines have gearshift indicators and an ECO mode to limit engine torque, both to help you eek the most out of your tank – by 10 per cent – and save you valuable pennies at the pumps. They'll also no doubt help you do your bit for the

environment. Personally I have been spoiled over the years by driving top of the range models with all the modern technology on the market so the Sandero is not for me. It's also as slow as you would expect, reaching 62mph in just over 14 seconds. But if it's a bargain you are looking for the Dacia is right up your street. It's impossible not to be impressed.

Bumper to bumper

DACIA SANDERO

Model: Access 1.2 16v 75
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2007 57 RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 AUTHENTIQUE Wheelchair access vehicle, Metallic Blue, only 28,000 miles, 1 owner £4,999



2007 57 VW EOS 2.0 TDI SPORT 6-speed, Manual, Metallic Silver, leather, 40,000 miles, FSH £9,999

Motoring

Audi's third generation A3 delivers in all departments

By Graham Breeze

Audi's relentless chase to dominate the UK market has taken another huge step forward with the arrival of the new five-door A3 Sportback.

This third generation version sees the Sportback name return to the A3 range with a new look, more space and a range of prices to suit all needs.

For just £620 more than a three-door version the new A3 prices range from £19,825 for a 1.4 to £25,500 for a 2.0 litre range topping TDI – yet you get so much more for your money.

On the roads of Southern France I tested the range and surprisingly found myself falling for the range-starting 1.4 TFSI SE.

This really is a big car. Wheelbase is 58mm longer than the predecessor and 35mm longer than the three door version, meaning there's room for five adults with ample legroom.

The boot offers an enormous 1,220 litres of luggage capacity when folded flat and 380 litres with five seated, easily passing the golf clubs test and 10 litres more space than on the previous model.

Audi, like all the manufacturers today, is reducing the body weight of all their cars and this A3 is 90kg lighter.

Carrying the 1.4TFSI engine the five door has a kerb weight of only 1,205kg, making the model a leader in class, thanks mainly to the clever use of aluminium in key areas.

Inside the A3 cabin there's a new look to the



Plenty of gadgets and luxury in the Audi A3 Sportback Sport



Plenty of leg and headroom in the back



The car makers have a winner with the new-look A3 Sportback

dash but it's still unmistakably Audi with the same quality feel we have come to expect.

The dash is dominated by the high resolution monitor. Keys for navigation, television, radio and media have been rearranged but the large rotary control switch remains as one of my favourite bits of technology.

Sometimes I think you need to be something of a computer geek to own an Audi, there's so much technology on board, but the advantages are enormous and while Audi are happy to say they are targeting the computer literate

driver it's all pretty straightforward once you get to grips.

The traditional handbrake has been replaced by a push button system and hill hold assist is available. Equipment level the 3-door across the three SE, Sport and S-Line. Specs but electric rear windows and child locks are now standard.

There's also Audi's clever Comfort, Auto or Dynamic driving modes while sports models include sports seats, steering wheel and aluminium detailing in and out.

The 1.4 on test was impressive with 0-62mph in 9.5 seconds, a top speed of 126mph, combined fuel figures of 53mpg and CO2 emissions of 123g/km.

The test car had 17inch alloys, a light and rain sensor package, aluminium window trims, tyre pressure monitoring and Sat Nav as part of an extra package, which pushed the price up from £19,180 to £23,015.

You wouldn't expect a 1.4 to have the power that this Audi has but it is very impressive and was easily my pick of the range.

Bumper to bumper

Audi A3 Sportback

Model: 1.4TFSI SE
Price: £23,015
Top speed: 126mph
0-62mph: 9.5secs
CO2 emissions: 123g/km
Combined fuel: 53mpg

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VAUXHALL

Motoring

Italian job that's going for the bigger picture

By Ian Donaldson

Fiat hopes its latest car will make the runaway success of its cheeky little 500L bigger still – literally.

Obviously a business that knows when it's got a (small) monster hit on its hands, the Italian car maker has decided to go large with a tribute model.

Called the 500L it shares nothing with its smaller sibling except an obvious, and wholly deliberate likeness around the front. And the crucial 500 name, of course.

But instead of the little 500's charmingly modest dimensions, the 500L arrives as a junior MPV, replacing the smaller car's knee-banging rear seats with room for strapping adults in the back, and a boot that explodes from boutique friendly to a supermarket shop natural.

If Fiat was worried buyers might see the Serbian-built 500L as little more than a five-door version of the car it pays homage to, a first glance will put them right. It actually looks quite big, sitting under a watery early spring sky.

Nearly as big, say, as a Ford Focus and bigger than an obvious new competitor, the Ford B-Max, complete with tall body and sliding rear doors.

The 500L comes in three grades: Popstar, Easy and Lounge, with prices from £14,990 to £18,890. There are four engine choices; petrol



The Fiat 500L, slightly smaller than the Ford Focus but bigger than Ford's B-Max

units with 875ccs and 1.4 litres and a couple of diesels, 1.3 and 1.6 litres.

Easy and Popstar models cost the same, with different trim treatments to tell them apart. The Easy (and dearer Lounge models) have fabric or suede dashboard finishes, which leaves both looking drab, especially when you add in the acres of black inside their surprisingly spacious cabins.

The Pop Star brings a touch of Latin liveliness

to its interior with dash panels in the same paint colour as the outside of the car. Very chic it looks, too.

Every 500L has cruise control, air conditioning, five-inch touchscreen radio and (thank goodness) a spare wheel. The Popstar has alloy wheels, ditched on the same price Easy, which includes rear electric windows and rear parking sensors instead.

The top Lounge model comes as standard

with a huge glass sunroof, auto climate control and auto wipers and lights.

As standard the Fiat 500L comes with six airbags (front, side and window), three-point safety belts on all five seats and double pretensioners and load limiters at the front. The steering column is designed to collapse in a heavy frontal impact. This is to protect the driver and prevent the steering wheel being pushed upwards.

Fiat is now providing its small cars with a City Brake Control system designed to reduce the effects of low-speed collision in traffic. By sending out laser impulses and registering how quickly they're reflected, City Brake Control can detect remotely how far the car is from other obstacles.

Minimised

Depending on variables such as weather conditions, road surface and tyre condition, a crash can either be avoided or the consequences minimised. It operates at speeds between three and 19mph so it won't cut in during parking manoeuvres or at speed when it could create a dangerous situation.

The Fiat 500L also has front headlights that feature daytime running lights and it has front foglights with a self-adaptive cornering function (standard on the 500L Lounge). These illuminate on the side the car is turning towards to light up the verges as well as giving other drivers ahead warning of the 500L's actual direction of travel.

The long options list includes lumbar adjustment for the driver and a DAB and Bluetooth

package, costing £100 each and which ought to be standard on the Lounge, at least. Coming later is a yet unpriced option of an on-board espresso coffee machine in the dashboard. No, I'm not making that last bit up.

The Fiat 500L will become the first standard production car in the world to offer a proper espresso coffee machine fully integrated into the dashboard. In collaboration with Lavazza, Fiat has devised a unique deck that allows the coffee maker to be fitted into the passenger compartment. It then uses Lavazza's A Modo Mio capsules to make authentic Italian espresso coffee.

Owners who plump for this option will also be able to choose a selection of accessories to complement it including spoon, capsule and sugar holders.

Does the rest of the car feel like a dash of Italy? After a drive in the top Lounge diesel, the answer is 'not really'. The 500L is rather too big and serious to carry the genes of a smaller and more vivacious stablemate.

Instead, you get a car that majors on space and sensibility. The diesel keeps its growly nature well under control and provides plenty of performance in the higher gears that are a good diesel's happy hunting ground. The test car's morning's work returned 48mpg on the hard to read trip computer; not a bad result, if a long way below the official figure.

It's not a car for the back road grand prix, preferring a more relaxed life where its generally comfy ride will be appreciated as everyone on board marvels at just how big the little 500 has become.

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SPORT

Rich battles way to England title



Rich Cosgrove with his winning belt

AN OSWESTRY martial arts expert has won the International Combat Organisation's Lightweight Professional English title in Shrewsbury.

Rich Cosgrove, head coach at Elite Martial Arts in Oswestry, won a decisive victory against Tom Thornycroft with a first round knockout.

The title fight was the main event of the night and really drew in the crowds from all over Shropshire to The Buttermarket.

Elite Martial Arts is based in Oswestry and has been established for seven years.

The club has been going from strength to strength since it started and has produced a string of successful fighters over the

years at amateur, semi-pro and professional levels.

Rich currently trains twice daily for six days a week while maintaining the club and a full time job and is on the lookout for sponsors.

"I am really excited about all the young prospects we have at the club at the moment."

"There are some really talented youngsters coming up and I hope that winning the ICO title will inspire and motivate them to fulfil their own dreams."

To learn more about Elite Martial Arts you can visit <http://elite-martial-arts.net> or Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/teamelite> e.oswestry or give Rich a ring on 09790 856002

WHITTINGTON'S bowlers are warming up for the new season with an open day.

Club members and anyone wishing to join are invited to the day on Sunday, March 24 (2pm).

League action starts next month with the Shrewsbury League starting on April 5, the Wem League starting on April 8, and the Oswestry League a day later on April 9. Chartered accountants DRE & Co have sponsored the club and one of their managers, Aled Davies, from its Oswestry office, is the captain for the club's team that plays in the Oswestry Bowls League first division. The club are currently looking for more sponsors who will be able to advertise a banner at the club's grounds.



Ready for the new season, from left, are club secretary Mike Brunt, Aled Davies, manager at DRE & Co and John and Captain of the club's team in the Oswestry League, and Julian Turner, the club chairman

Crusaders defence is strong for second win

NORTH Wales Crusaders picked up their second Northern Rail Cup victory with another solid defensive display in the 40-3 win against Gateshead Thunder at MS3 Craven Park, writes **Ryan Gould**.

As was the case against Oldham Roughyeds a week earlier, the effort and determination in defence went a long way to securing the victory, which has now shifted a great deal of emphasis onto the clash against Rochdale Hornets at the Racecourse next week.

Thunder could have opened the scoring early on as Josh Neilson finished a flick pass from Johnson, but the pass was ruled forward.

But there was no doubt about North Wales' opener, though, with the visitors scoring through Stuart Reardon, who was in acres of space on the right to finish off a move started with a Durbin break.

And that lead was increased shortly after when, following a slick offload from Smith to McConnell as the loose forward hit the line, Leon Brennan crashed over next to the posts.

Rob Massam then grabbed his side's fourth just before the hooter, as he picked up Luke Hardcastle's loose carry and raced the length of the field to finish in the corner to put Crusaders 18-0 to the good at the break.

Jono Smith and Tommy Johnson, who did well to hold onto Smith's pass, combined to send over Mouldale for North Wales' fifth after the break, with the stand-off doing well to hold off the attentions of a number of Thunder defenders.

And the final score of the afternoon for Crusaders came from Middlehurst.

Golf returns

WINNER of the winter league at **Welshpool Golf Club** on Saturday, March 9, was Steve Proctor with 31pts. Second was Mal Dutton with 29 while Steve Trow and Will Wheatley were third and fourth with 28pts.

Sunday's Rabbits & Tigers was won by Richard Jones (Captain) & Carwen Jones on countback with 28pts from Charlie Emberton & Mike Gittins with 27pts.

The team of Steve Gauge, Wilf Williams, Mike Evans & Johnny Cleaton won the men's Texas Scramble at **Llanymynech Golf Club** on Saturday, March 9 with a net 54.8.

Runners up were Andy Roberts, Mal Oakley, Garry Evans & Alan Williams with net 55.2 while third place went to Ian & Brian Suckley, Mark & Roy Davenport with a net 55.5.

Relief as Oswestry secure first away win of season

THE long wait is over after Oswestry finally secured their first away win of the season in rugby's South Lincs and Cheshire Two with a battling 8-0 victory at Wallasey.

After the previous week's spirited defeat against league leaders Sefton, the Eagles travelled to the mid table rivals Wirral full of confidence that they could break their three-match losing streak.

With youngsters Luca Owen-Youens, Dan Williams and Iwan Ellis returning to the side, the visitors were able to put out a line-up that had the perfect match of youth and experience.

On a wet pitch, they soon settled into the game with Owen-Youens using a shrewd kicking game to put his side into the home half.

Good driving play by Andy Smith and the Oswestry back line continually crossed the gain line, and soon had the Wallasey defence pinned down which resulted in a penalty being awarded in front of the posts, Chris Crutchley stepping up to slot it over for three points.

With the Oswestry backs now on fire and wanting quick ball, it looked as if Wallasey could be out of the game by half time, but the

visitors did not capitalise on their possession as a stalemate ensued.

A change due to injury allowed Dale Johnston-Downs to enter the game, and straight away the pace

Relegation fears grow as Eagles soundly beaten

RELEGATION alarm bells are starting to ring after Oswestry II suffered back-to-back defeats with a 46-7 home loss to leaders Chester II in the Ragging Bull North West League division three (south).

As a result of the reverse, the Eagles have now fallen precariously near the drop zone and must pick up a win in their next outing against Hope Valley to stand any chance of staying up.

A makeshift side saw seasoned campaigners Warren Howell and the ever present Steve Jarvis in the forwards, while the backs contained four regular forwards including captain Jerry Wilford who was playing at scrum half for the first time ever instead of his usual back row slot.

Barring a well worked Chester try from a driving line out, the visitors competed well for the first 20 minutes with Dom Bond and James Booth featuring heavily at the breakdown to secure some quick ball for the backs.

While it was difficult for the Oswestry halves to find a rhythm, centre Will Lewis was a welcome outlet in the centres and regularly set the ball up for further phases.

Unfortunately, as the half wore on, the Eagles became more desperate in their attempts to halt the Chester

RUGBY

by John Bridgewater



of the game lifted as Oswestry started to run at the home defence once more with Andy Smith in the thick of the action as he made good yardage only to be stopped just short of the line.

Oswestry started the second half as they finished the first, with Dan Williams controlling the breakdown and Owen-Youens again using his boot to pin back the Wallasey defence.

With Jamie Luckett and Johnston-Downs now chasing every ball, Wallasey reverted to kicking away most of their possession allowing the back three of Crutchley and the Hughes brothers to run the ball back.

Fumbles near to the line thwarted Oswestry's hopes of extending their advantage, and they were almost caught at the other end but a fine try-saving tackle by Phil Dury denied Wallasey on the break, the result of which sparked a minor skirmish.

Confidence

When the game settled down, the Eagles bagged a crucial try when, after a couple of phases of play, Gareth Hughes went over the line supported by the forwards to score a unconverted try.

Wallasey upped their game late on, but Oswestry defended stoutly for the last 10 minutes led by man of the match Dan Williams to ensure they ended their long wait for an away win.

"This was a very good performance from this side who are starting to play with confidence," said a club spokesman.

"They realise that with the ball in hand, with good running lines and supporting the ball carrier, then this game of rugby is quite simple."

Oswestry have no league game this weekend, before returning to duty at home to Buxton the following Saturday, no doubt boosted by last week's showing.

Golden girl Emily is shot putt star



Emily Ball with her medal after winning the Midlands Indoor Athletics shot putt title

YOUNG shot putter Emily Ball is aiming high after maintaining her run of success with another golden day.

The Year 10 student at The Marches School in Oswestry underlined her rising talent by outshining her fellow competitors to win the shot putt competition at the Midlands Indoor Athletics Championships.

Representing the West Cheshire Athletics Club, Ball booked her ticket for the championships after progressing through qualifying rounds held in Sheffield earlier in the season.

During the competition, held at the NIA in Birmingham, Emily excelled with her performances and came home with

gold courtesy of a throw of 10.21 in the 4kg class. The 15-year-old currently trains five times a week and is ranked 11th in the UK for under-17s shot putt.

Ball has her sights firmly set on becoming a professional athlete and is aiming her efforts at the 2020 Olympics.

"I am really pleased with my recent success as it shows that all my hard work is paying off," she said.

"The next big competition I have coming up is the UK Under 16 final in Birmingham."

"I also enjoy other disciplines such as discus and javelin, however, I am focusing my efforts primarily on shot putt at present."

League tables

Mercian Regional Football League

Shropshire County Junior Cup quarter final: Impact Utd 2, Madeley Sports 4; AFC Wellington 1, Bishop Cleeve Town 5; Cleveley 4, Wellington Amateurs Reserves 3; Clee Hill 0, Ketley Town.

Premier division: Alcott 0, AFC Ludlow 2; Dawley Town 2, Weston Rhyn 1; FC Hodnet 3, Shifnal Utd 97 1; Ketley Bank Utd 1, Church Shelton 1.

Division one: Oswestry Lions 1, Oswestry Boys club 4; Pres 10, Brown Clee 1; Rock Rovers 3, Morda Utd Reserves 1; Wrockwardine Wood Juniors 1, Meole Brace 5; Shawbury Reserves 3, Hopesgate Utd 3.

Division two: Denso 1, Athletic Brosley 8; Donington Sports & Social 0, Childs Eccall 1; Edmond Rangers 1, Oakengates Rangers 3; Higley Miners Welfare 3, Wrockwardine Wood 1.

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Church Shelton	19	11	4	39	33	37
Morda Utd	17	11	3	44	24	36
AFC Ludlow	15	11	2	45	15	35
Telford Juniors	16	9	3	27	16	31
FC Hodnet	17	9	6	30	21	29
Shifnal United 97	18	7	8	29	24	24
Alcott	18	7	9	39	41	23
Oakengates	16	6	8	33	29	20
Ketley Bank Utd	18	6	10	25	40	20
Wellington Ams R	14	5	7	22	29	17
Weston Rhyn	19	4	13	18	38	14
Whitchurch Alp R	15	2	8	21	37	11
Dawley Town	12	2	9	10	31	7

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ketley Town	19	16	2	96	25	49
Oswestry Lions	21	14	5	75	39	44
Rock Rovers FC	13	1	1	76	27	42
Pres FC	19	14	5	78	33	42
Shifnal United	19	13	3	62	20	42
Wroxeter Rovers	18	12	5	68	29	37
Bishops Cleeve T	19	11	4	60	32	37
Oswestry BC	18	7	3	34	31	25
Brown Clee	18	6	11	34	54	19
Clee Hill	16	5	9	33	51	17
Meole Brace	20	5	13	36	66	17
Hopesgate United	17	3	13	33	73	10
Morda Utd	18	3	14	28	84	10
Shawbury Utd Res	20	2	17	14	93	7
Wrock Wood Juniors	17	1	16	22	91	3

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Childs Eccall	23	21	1	113	28	64
Oakengates Rngs	20	15	3	69	28	47
Cleveley	22	15	7	69	40	45
Market Dron Tigers	19	13	3	42	19	42
AFC Wellington	20	13	6	106	41	40
Athletic Brosley	20	13	6	76	40	40
Rendley 2012	20	11	7	60	45	35
Edmond Rangers	22	8	10	53	40	31
Wrock Wood	18	8	7	56	33	27
Donington S & S	20	8	9	56	48	24
Impact	19	8	11	38	49	24
Higley Miners Wf	19	7	11	46	57	22
Shifnal United	19	5	13	27	16	16
Albrighton Juniors	19	3	16	30	72	9
Spaigley Britannia	20	2	18	24	125	6
Denso	22	0	22	8	161	0

Spar Mid Wales League

Division one: Bernew 3, Llansantffraid Village 0; Carno 1, Aberystwyth Uni 1; Montgomery 3, Dyffryn Banw 0; Newbridge-on-Wye 2, Four Crosses 6; Welshpool 2, Bow Street 1.

Division two: Abernule 1, Prestegyn 6; Bont 1, Knighton 2; Llandrindod Wells 2, Hay St Mary's 1; Rhosgoch 7, Aberdyff 0; Talgarth 1, Machynlleth 1.

League Cup round two: Llansantffraid, Llanfair Utd 3 (aet), Llanfair won 4-2 on pens.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanidloes	18	14	2	80	22	44
Builth Wells	21	13	4	51	32	43
Four Crosses	19	12	5	50	29	39
Bernew	22	11	6	51	27	38
Waterloo	18	11	5	44	33	35
Montgomery	16	10	2	44	16	34
Abernare	20	10	8	35	26	32
Tywyn/Brynog	17	10	6	48	30	31
Aber Uthi	19	8	4	35	35	29
Llansantffraid	20	7	10	49	46	24
Carno	19	7	10	33	35	23
Bow Street	17	5	5	44	41	23
Welshpool	25	17	38	74	22	22
Newbridge	19	6	10	36	54	21
Dyffryn Banw	22	3	19	25	90	9
Dolgellau	22	2	16	99	4	4

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanfair Utd	16	15	0	63	10	46
Clevedon	17	11	3	53	29	39
Knighton	19	10	4	57	42	34
Rhosgoch	20	9	5	56	32	32
Kerry	21	9	6	50	39	30
Prestegyn	17	7	7	48	49	24
Hay St Marys	19	7	9	52	54	24
Machynlleth	16	7	7	41	41	23
Talgarth	22	5	16	35	60	20
Llanfyllin	14	5	6	30	38	18
Abernule	19	5	12	30	56	17
Bont	21	4	17	25	75	14
Aberdyff	20	4	14	38	74	14

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
White Lion	21	11	3	82	44	29
Top White Lion	22	11	4	80	52	22
Black Lion A	22	13	6	77	55	29
Black Lion B	21	11	5	71	55	27
Ball	21	9	7	71	55	26
Cross Keys	21	8	7	67	55	26
Station	21	6	5	71	55	22
Shaw Yn Dinas	22	8	7	64	62	22
Horsehoe	22	9	6	66	66	22
Pentpoint Inn	21	6	7	62	64	22
Rayway Inn	22	5	10	58	74	17
Black Horse	21	4	10	50	75	16
Royal Hill	21	1	17	30	96	5
Black Lion A 4, Horsehoe 2, Cross Keys 3, Top White Lion 3, Penpoint Inn 4, Black Lion B 2; Station 2, Ball 4, Royal Hill 0, White Lion Lynxys 6; Shaw Yn Dinas 4, Rayway 2.						

COBRA lunch date for air ambulance

COBRA rugby club are holding a special lunch in aid of Wales Air Ambulance at their clubhouse on Sunday, April 14.

The lunch, which starts at 1pm, includes Promise Auction & Vocal Entertainment, with tickets costing £15.

Anyone interested in attending can contact Ann on 01938-500505 or Elaine on

07500-048594. It was a blank weekend for COBRA due to Wales' Six Nations international at Scotland, but the club's youth team were in action, finishing 10-10 at home to Wrexham in the North Wales Youth League division one.

This Saturday, they are at home to Dolgellau in the North Wales Youth Cup.

SPORT**Rose ready to run the marathon for Trust**

Runner Rose Booth

AS if studying for A Levels and being captain of the lacrosse team is not enough to have on your plate, Moreton Hall's Year 13 student Rose Booth will join 35,000 others in the London Marathon on Sunday, April 21.

Rose believes she is the first girl from Moreton to ever attempt the 26.2 miles and aims to raise £1,750 for The Outward Bound Trust: an educational charity with a difference.

"They use the mountains, lakes, rivers and sea as their classroom and teach children self-confidence, the ability to take risks and manage decisions, improved communication skills and insights into teamwork," she said.

"The Outward Bound Trust is not a huge charity but they can make a huge difference. Please support me and donate anything you can to help this great cause."

"We are holding various home clothes days and Krippy Krems doughnut selling activities at school to raise funds."

Donations should go to: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RoseBooth>

Ironworks into semis

IRONWORKS are through to the semi finals of the North Shropshire Sunday League Consolation Cup with a 5-3 passage against The Plough.

George Turner was their four goal hero with Lance Jones getting the other, while Luke Ellis, Chris Hullet and Craig Barlow pulled it back to 3-3 at one stage.

In the league, DUDLESTON HEATH won 4-3 at ATHLETICO MARKET to avenge a defeat earlier in the season.

Player boss Darren Pitcher, who also missed a penalty, grabbed a late winner, while Connor Pitcher, Brendan Price and Scott Penrose were also on target. Will Gilbert, Alec Coleman and Karl Bailey netted at the other end.

Club holding net sessions

WHITTINGTON Cricket Club are gearing up for the new season with net sessions in the coming month. The club will be holding the practices on three Thursdays – March 28, April 4 and 11 at the Marches School between 9-10pm.

Any new players are welcome to attend, or if anyone is interested in joining the club, they can contact captain Nick Remon on 07415 795167.

Title race wide open after leaders beaten by rivals

THE race for the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one crown has been thrown wide open after leaders Llanrhaeadr reserves suffered a 2-1 loss at closest rivals Waterloo reserves.

Despite the defeat, Llanrhaeadr are still top, but their lead has been trimmed to just two points from Waterloo who also have a game in hand.

Mike Roberts was on target for the pacesetters, but goals from Nathan James and Craig Scott earned the visitors a crucial win in the top of the table showdown.

At the other end of the table, LLANSANTFFRAID reserves remain deep in basement trouble after being edged out 2-1 at home to LLANGEDWYN whose Josh

Edwards and Nick Jones were on the mark, with Lewis Williams resp-onding.

LLANDRINIO are now 11 points clear at the top of the Mitsubishi division two after trashing Newtown Wanderers 5-0 with the goals shared between Mike H Smith, Luke Weaver, Adam Knight, Dave Walton and Alex Woodvine.

Marksman

Second placed Abermule reserves lost ground with a 2-0 reverse at CHURCH-STOKE who took the spoils through Chris Haycock and Joe Haycock.

LLANYMNECH climbed out of the bottom two after seeing off Kerry reserves 2-0 with Callum White and Grant Jones their marksman.

Guilsfield remain on course for top five finish with win**Penrhyncoch 1 Guilsfield 3**

RESURGENT Guilsfield stayed on course for a top five finish in the Cymru Alliance after overcoming a half-time deficit to finally overcome a stubborn Penrhyncoch 3-1 at Cae Baker.

After being held by lowly Penycyae in midweek, the Guils had to battle hard before returning with the spoils to maintain their fine run of form since the turn of the year.

"We were a bit lethargic in the first half, but a lot better in the second," said manager Russell Cadwallader. "There was a fracas at the end of the first half which seemed to wake us up."

Penrhyncoch, playing down the famous Cae Baker slope in the first period, had two good efforts midway through the half, with only the woodwork denying them on 25 minutes.

Krzysztof Nalborski's cross from the by-line was met by experienced campaigner Sion Meredith who headed downwards but saw the ball bounce up and hit the crossbar.

It proved a frustrating spell for Guilsfield who, despite eight games unbeaten, struggled to get a real foothold on the game, while Penrhyn themselves kept up the pressure with attacks down the right flank.

They sounded a warning on 38 minutes when Josh Shaw broke clear but his weak shot was easily handled by keeper Dave Littleford.

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

However, the home side's efforts finally paid off three minutes before half time when Shaw raced clear again with the Guils defence appealing in vain for offside, but this time Littleford could only parry the forward's first shot which rebounded back out to Shaw to make no mistake.

The half threatened to boil over with a mass brawl as the hosts took exception

to a challenge from Danny Barton on home keeper Leigh Jenkins.

The half finished amid tension between the two sides as the referee looked to keep calm, which seemed to ignite the Guils for the second period.

The visitors regrouped and went on to dominate the second period, with Penrhyn on the back foot as their defence battled to hold out. Their pressure eventually paid off on 64 minutes as Will Thomas levelled matters when Chris Cathrall picked out the marksman from the by-line and the front runner slotted home neatly.

The goal which broke Penrhyncoch hearts came nine minutes from time and was a goal of the season contender as a Rob Cookson's left footed 25 yard free kick curled into the top left hand corner.

Revival

The win was sealed in injury time after Thomas broke clear again but was bundled over by keeper Leigh Jenkins and Cathrall converted the resulting spot-kick.

Victory sees Guilsfield now step up into seventh spot in the league and looking forward to the visit of champions-elect Rhyl to the Community Centre Ground on Saturday as they put their revival to the test.

A few days earlier, Guilsfield saw their winning run halted with a 1-1 home draw against a battling Penycyae who rose to the challenge.

Chances were in short supply in the first half in wet conditions, but Will Thomas gave the Guils a 55th minute lead when breaking through to fire home despite offside claims.

The front runner went close to a second 10 minutes but struck the post after racing clear, before former TNS Academy youngster Niam Arsan earned the visitors a share of the spoils with a neat curling strike 10 minutes from time.

It's third time lucky for Dave's drive-in

WELSHPOOL Golf Club Seniors Captain Dave Read, has finally managed to have his drive-in.

It was third time lucky for Dave after the previous two attempts were thwarted by the weather.

After the drive-in the seniors played a 12 hole Stableford competition, which was won by Stan Rawlings, with Paul Butterworth a close second, followed by Trevor Rogers in third place.

In other results from Welshpool Golf Club the Rabbits & Tigers competition on Sunday, March 3 was won by Dave Rowlands & Rob Williams with 33 points on countback followed by Nick Jones & Mike Gittins and Martin Ward & Andy Bowen, also with 33 pts. Fourth were Steve Trow & Clive Jones with 31pts.



Seniors captain Dave Read about to drive-in

The winter league on Saturday, March 2, was won by Andy Bowen on countback with 29pts. Second was

Geoff Haycock also with 29 pts. Third place went to Dave Jones with 28pts and fourth with 27 was Gareth Williams.

Mitchell mauls the Lions

Oswestry Town Lions's Scott Bright, right, and Oswestry Boys Club's Gwyn Davies go for the ball in their derby clash

JAMIE Mitchell fired a hat-trick as Oswestry Boys Club put a dampener on Oswestry Lions's title hopes in the Merion Regional League division one by running out 4-1 winners at Park Hall.

The boys club were braced for a tough outing against their local rivals who, eyeing revenge for a cup loss earlier in the season, had gone into the game just two points off top spot.

They welcomed back veteran Mike Barton who has come in a coaching role this time to support manager Matt Owen, but were dealt a blow before kick off when centre half Paul Clark was injured in the warm-up, forcing a change with Callum Hughes coming into the starting eleven.

However, they started the game excellently with some great flowing football and took the lead when terrific work by Scott Penrose played in George Turner who put in an exquisite cross for Mitchell to convert at the back post.

The Lions began to enjoy the majority of possession but struggled to find a way through their hard working rivals, but levelled when Dyl Ellis slotted into the bottom corner from a free kick.

Only minutes later, however, OBC regained the lead when a free kick from the left saw Jordan Gerrard rise highest to head home.

Gwyn Davies was doing an excellent job in shackling danger man Scott Bright, while Penrose sacrificed his normal attacking game to help defend on the left hand side.

After the break, the Lions still could not get to grips with OBC's high tempo and hard work and went further behind when another good move down the left hand side saw Kyle Wilson square from the by-line for Mitchell to slot home his second of the afternoon.



Lions's Oliver Jones, right, shields the ball from the Boys Club's Danny Owen

Man of the match Mitchell then completed his hat-trick after latching onto a fine through ball from Turner before coolly slotting the ball under the advancing keeper.

OBC were well worth their lead with the back line holding solid. Steve Bishton and Callum Hughes putting their bodies on the line and Stu Johnson being the main outlet to start their counter attacking football from the back.

The Lions made a few changes and pressed for a goal late on but were kept at bay by OBC who continued to hassle and harry their opponents.

It was a deserved win for the visitors which will give them a big boost ahead of Saturday's tough test against leaders Ketley Town while the Lions will be out to get their title push back on track at home to Clew Hill.

Rangers survival fight gets a boost

ELLESMERE RANGERS showed they are still up for the fight to pull off a great escape from relegation in the Midland Alliance after a flying start saw them notch only a third win of the season. **writes STUART DUNN.**

Dewlyn Humphreys's basement boys, delighted to claim three points from a 2-1 victory over Causeway United at Amblecote last weekend, know a few more maximums are quickly required to inject fresh life into their survival push.

Rangers, who have lost the services of ex-Shrewsbury Town striker Marco Adaggio to AFC Telford United, host top six side Tipton Town at Beech Grove on Saturday (3pm) before travelling to Leicestershire to take on Heather St Johns on Tuesday night.

But the win over Causeway has certainly lifted spirits within the Ellesmere camp.

"It was one of the best performances of the season," said club spokesman Mark McIntyre.

Manager Humphreys drafted in father and son Richard and Josh Brown, 16, to bolster his team at the back and up front and Rangers came flying out of the blocks to score twice inside the opening 10 minutes.

Powerless

There were just 85 seconds on the clock when Kevin Renshaw was pushed in the penalty area and Steve O'Reilly held his nerve to beat keeper Tommy Turner from the resulting spot kick.

It quickly got even better for the visitors as Josh Brown broke down the left and fed Renshaw whose cross was slotted home by former Shrewsbury Town trainee Jamie Haynes.

Goalkeeper Dave Maguire then came into his own with a string of fine saves but he was powerless to prevent Jack Pearlman pulling one back for Causeway from close range in the 36th minute.

Rangers almost added to their lead at the start of the second half when Josh Brown was unfortunate to see his effort drift just wide of the far post.

Causeway rattled the bar at the other end as they chased an equaliser but it was Rangers who ended the stronger and, after Marcus Sharrod fired just wide, Dan Tolley had an effort cleared off the line as Ellesmere celebrated a second away win of the season.

Rangers were hosting Colehill Town last night (Wednesday).

SPORT

Morda are knocked off top by Stretton

THE lack of a fixture at the weekend resulted in Morda United losing top spot in the Mercian Regional League premier division.

Church Stretton's 5-1 victory over Ketley Bank United took the south Shropshire side back to the summit, one point above Morda, though Craig Rogers' men have two games in hand to make up the leeway.

Things are very tight at the top of the table with AFC Ludlow just one point behind the Weston Road side but with two games in hand while fourth placed Telford Juniors are not out of the hunt.

Postponed

This leaves every one of Morda's final seven games vital to their title hopes and possible promotion to the West Midlands League.

On Saturday, Morda continue their run of away games when they travel to face Whitchurch Alport, while the following Saturday they visit AFC Ludlow in the Premier Division Cup.

This quarter final tie was postponed last Wednesday with Ludlow unable to provide a pitch.

After conceding 12 goals the previous week, **MORDA RESERVES** put up an improved showing with a 3-1 defeat away against fourth-in-the-table Rock Rovers in division one.

Matt Barber's side are at home on Saturday with fifth-placed Madeley Sports the visitors for a 3pm kick off.

St Martins are facing new battle to stay up

ST MARTINS found themselves being dragged towards basement danger in the West Midlands League division one after a depleted side lost 2-0 at rock bottom Blackheath.

It was a disappointing outcome for the Saints who have now lost their last four league outings, and lie just three places out of the relegation zone.

A trip to Blackheath was a game they were looking to win in normal circumstances, but they were struggling to raise a side due to the absence of several players.

Deadlock

They were so short that keeper Ben Richards had to play in an outfield role despite not being fully fit and Tim Allen, who was struggling with a hamstring strain, also had to start, before being forced off through a recurrence of the injury.

Even so, they had their chances, and were looking good for a share of the spoils with the game goalless with 15 minutes remaining.

But it was lowly Blackheath who broke the deadlock before sealing the win in the last minute, leaving St Martins with plenty to ponder as they now embark on a tough run of games.

This Saturday, they are due to host Stone Old Alleynians, but the game is likely to be postponed as the Park Hall pitch is already in use that day with TNS hosting Bangor City in the Welsh Premier.

Town are out of the bottom three Llanfair make quarter-final on penalties

WELSHPOOL TOWN hauled themselves out of the bottom three of the Spar Mid Wales League division one as they returned to winning ways with a 2-1 success against Bow Street at Maesdyre.

After going down to local rivals Waterloo Rovers in an entertaining encounter the previous week, it was a good response from the Lilywhites who now have their sights on edging higher up the table in the coming weeks after easing their basement concerns.

They had the better chances in a goalless first half, and finally got their noses in front in the second half when an inswinging corner from Stuart Buckley-Robbins was headed into his own net by a visiting defender. Moments later they doubled the lead as George Mytton released Sam Adams who made no mistake with just the keeper to beat, before Bow Street pulled one back when firing in a loose ball in the last couple of minutes.

But Pool were not to be denied, and now head for Saturday's trip to Aberystwyth University in good heart knowing that another win could lift them into 10th spot.

FOUR CROSSES, whose chances of lifting the league crown have receded of late, bounced back with a 6-2 romp at struggling Newbridge to make up ground on leaders Llanidloes.

Lying third, they now trail the pacesetters by five points but have played one more game.

Mark Jones scored twice as

BERRIEW boosted their hopes of a top three finish with a 3-0 home win over **LLANSANTFFRAID VIL-LAGE**, Christian Webster also on the mark.

MONTGOMERY maintained their hopes of a mounting a serious title challenge with a 3-0 home verdict over **DYFFRYN BANW** to move up to sixth, while their visitors slipped deeper into the relegation mire as a result of the loss.

A penalty three minutes into injury time denied Carno in their 1-1 home draw with in-form Aberystwyth University.

The hosts had led in the second minute, also from the spot, with Craig Stephens supplying the finish after being brought down by the college keeper when through on goal.

They looked to have the points in the bag when home stopper Chris Brown fouled in the last seconds of the game, and top scorer Tom Sparks made no mistake from the spot to earn parity for the students.

Meanwhile, Llandrindod Wells reduced Llanfair United's lead at the top of the second division to seven points with a hard-fought 2-1 home success over Hay St Mary's.

However, Llanfair - who were involved in league cup action - remain firm favourites to take the crown as they have a game in hand.

Knights Town consolidated third spot after winning 2-1 at Bont.

Third bottom Abermule crashed 6-1 at home to Presteigne to remain in the lower reaches, while Machynlleth finished 1-1 at Talgarth.

HIGH flying Llanfair United clinched their place in the quarter-finals of the Spar Mid Wales League cup - but were made to fight all the way by local rivals Llanfyllin.

Llanfair had made the short trip flying high at the top of the Spar division two, and Llanfyllin languishing in the lower reaches, but there was little between the sides for long spells in the second round tie.

With the tie finishing 3-3 after 90 minutes, extra time could not separate the two teams, but it was the visitors who prevailed 4-2 in the penalty shootout, with Daniel Jones firing the winning kick.

But it was a close call for Llanfair who had led at the break through Geraint Jones, only to be given a real scare after the interval.

Llanfyllin went 2-1 and 3-2 up as they scented a terrific success with Cody Smart (2) and Tamir Law their marksmen, but each time the visitors hit back to level with Chris Gethin scoring twice.

It proved a stalemate in the extra period before penalties from Gethin, Lee Andrew, Geraint Jones and Daniel Jones won the day.

After two exits in other cup competitions, Llanfair would have been relieved to have kept their flag flying in the competition.

Dashed

They now face a trip to first division side Berriew in the last eight.

Elsewhere, Waterloo Rovers have been drawn away to Llandrindod Wells, while other last eight ties see Four Crosses travel to Rhosgch, while Llanidloes Town entertain Hay St Mary's.

WATERLOO ROVERS' hopes of success in the Central Wales Cup were dashed as they went out 3-2 at Aberaeron at the quarter-final stage.

Gareth Severs netted a brace for the home side, Matthew Clark also on the mark to see the hosts through despite Waterloo twice reducing the arrears. Aberaeron now meet Rhayader Town in the semi-final on Wednesday, March 27.

Under-13s unbeaten run is now five games

OSWESTRY boys under-13s have extended their unbeaten run to five games.

The latest win was a comfortable 5-0 Shropshire Junior League victory over Worthen at Lea Cross.

The blustery and cold conditions made for a difficult game but the visitors settled quickly and went ahead after five minutes through captain Curtis Weetman.

Lewis Birch then converted a fine cross from Will Baker after good work on the wing to double the lead.

Provider for the second goal Will Baker then turned scorer as he raced through the middle to slot home to put Oswestry 3-0 up at the break.

Despite some changes at half time Oswestry maintained their dominance, with Weetman increasing the lead shortly after the break before coolly sealing a well deserved hat-trick and the three points with five minutes remaining.

A good solid performance saw the team's third clean sheet in four games.

Wilde hits brace as Saints go 11 points clear at top

The New Saints 3 Prestatyn 0

MIKE Wilde scored twice, and also missed a penalty, as The New Saints extended their lead at the top of the Welsh Premier to 11 points with a comfortable 3-0 home win over Prestatyn.

It proved another solid display from the defending champions who ruled the roost for most part against the Seaside who have now suffered eight straight defeats at Park Hall. And with Bangor City going second after their 2-0 win against Airbus UK, it sets the scene for Saturday's crucial top of the table clash with the Citizens at Oswestry on Saturday.

Wilde gave the defending champions the perfect start when prodding the ball home from a few yards in the second minute after visiting keeper Jon Hill-Dunt had fumbled a harmless looking 25-yard strike from Chris Seargeant.

Buoyed by the early goal, the Saints never looked back as they bossed much of the encounter, penning the Seaside's back in their own half with some swift movement and measured passing. Hill-Dunt recovered from his early lapse with solid stops from Wilde and Ryan Fraughan, Wilde then glancing a header just wide as the hosts continued to press.

A second goal arrived just past the half hour mark as the lively Chris Jones launched one of several storming runs down the

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

right and curled an inviting low cross into the box for the advancing Wilde to steer his shot into the roof of the net from 10 yards.

Fraughan then spurned a golden chance when put through by Jones, his shot being deflected wide by the visiting keeper who also foiled Wilde in the first minute of the second half with a near post block as the Saints continued to press.

The Oswestry side should have made the points safe moments later when the Seaside's were ruled to have handled in the box from a right wing corner.

Wilde took on the spot kick responsibility from Alex Darlington but was denied a hat-trick when Hill-Dunt atoned for his earlier error with a low save diving to his left.

Prestatyn, who rarely suggested they could improve their woeful record Park Hall, had two chances to reduce the arrears through former Tranmere and Notts County forward Andy Parkinson.

But home keeper Paul Harrison was alert to thwart the striker in a one-on-one and then pushed an angled shot over the bar at the near post moments later.

However, there was no way back for the Seaside's on 66 minutes once half-time sub Matty Williams headed home Simon Spender's right wing cross.

Contested

Wilde again went close to a hat-trick when hitting the right post with a glancing header from Fraughan's left wing cross as TNS finished the game in full control.

With seven games remaining, the league leaders look well placed for the title having now moved 11 points clear at the top after Bangor City's 2-0 win over Airbus UK.

In a closely-contested affair, the turning point came in the 79th minute when Airbus midfielder Tom Field was sent off for a tackle on Chris Jones.

The 10-men looked as though they would hold out until the arrival of sub Gary O'Toole, the former Connah's Quay striker scoring with his first touch three minutes from time.

And Robbie Booth curled home the second in the first minute to seal the three points for the Citizens who are now second, but have played one game more than the Saints.



The New Saints two-goal star Mike Wilde goes on the attack against Prestatyn



TNS winger Ryan Fraughan is foiled by Prestatyn keeper Jon Hill-Dunt



TNS star Greg Draper has a shot on the Prestatyn goal

New Saints through to FAW Futsal Cup finals

THE New Saints have once again progressed through to the National FAW Futsal Cup finals.

They were one of three teams to progress from the Northern Regionals, with the inaugural champions including Wales captain Eric Ramsey and fellow Welsh international Futsal players Alex Ramsey, Tom Allen and Naim Arsan in their squad.

TNS had to be at the top of their game to defeat a stubborn Glacticos side. Despite trailing 3-0 at one stage, they came back to win the game in dramatic style 9-8 thanks to a last minute winner.

The Oswestry based side were then comfortable 10-2 winners against Whitegates Dynamite.

Rhyn's survival hopes are hit

WESTON Rhyn's survival hopes in the Mercian Regional League premier division suffered a major setback as they slipped to a 3-1 loss at rock bottom Dawley Town.

And defeat, in a game they had hoped to have won, leaves them anxiously looking over their shoulders at the two sides below them, with second bottom Whitchurch Alport trailing by three points with three games in hand.

They have no game this weekend, before embarking on a must-win clash at Whitchurch the following Saturday which could determine their prospects of staying out of danger.

Dawley, despite propping up the table, were up for the battle last week, but had the visitors managed to get their noses in front it could have been a different outcome.

Rich Hardie had one opportunity when denied by the keeper when through on goal in the first half, but a double strike early in the second period gave the Telford side the upper hand.

When they added a third, Weston Rhyn faced tough ask to retrieve the game, although they did reduce the arrears when Sam Litchfield broke from deep before crashing his shot into the net, giving the keeper little chance.

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Welshpool promotion hopes hit by defeat

WELSHPOOL'S last hope of challenging for promotion from rugby's Welsh League division three (north) appears to have gone after they lost 22-11 at title chasing Wrexham.

A try from Jon Rees-Jones, and two penalties from Daley Jones, kept their side in the hunt during a spirited showing in North Wales.

However, Wrexham scored a last minute touchdown and conversion to prevent the visitors from returning with at least a losing bonus point for keeping the score within seven.

Defeat leaves Welshpool in fifth spot, with six games remaining. Like the rest of the league, they have no action this weekend, before returning to duty at home to struggling basement side Holyhead the following Saturday.

Promotion chasing COBRA, who had no game last Saturday, face another blank weekend before returning to the pitch a week later (23 March) as they bid to maintain their challenge in division two (north) away to Colwyn Bay.

Bell out of the league

OSWESTRY Bell are no longer chiming in the North Shropshire Sunday League after being forced to resign due to lack of numbers – meaning Cross Foxes are the league champions.

Despite losing several players following the FA's insistence on applying the international clearance rule, the club tried to carry on but have now called time after struggling to raise a side.

The club reluctantly conceded at a meeting that they could not guarantee fielding a side every week, and wanted to be fair to the league and the member clubs.

However, they are hoping to regroup for next season.

Good Friday is final date

THIS year's Leintwardine Cup final will be played on Good Friday, March 29 at Paytoe Lane, Leintwardine, kicking-off at 5pm.

The finalists are Orleton Colts who knocked out Weobley in their quarter-final and Woofferton Colts FC in the semi-final, who take on Woofferton who arrive via victories over Shobdon and Tenbury Town.

Ladies take the title Town are on the charge

CELEBRATIONS were in order for Oswestry ladies who clinched the Cheshire Womens Hockey League division three crown in fine style with a 13-0 hammering of Winnington Park II.

Having secured promotion the previous week, the border side wrapped up the title with their 15th straight win, with their latest goal spree taking their tally to 95 goals for the season.

Sarah Lowe and Tracey Royle both scored five times, with Lisa Bladen, Sarah Haynes and Becky Duxbury, with her first goal for the club, also on the scoresheet.

They are 16 points clear at the top with three games left, with the next action at home to Timperley on Saturday at Marches

School (2pm). In-form WELSHPOOL Ladies face a crunch home clash against Ruthin on Saturday (10.30am) as they vie for the North Wales League division one crown.

They currently lie third, and in range of the leaders, after last week's 5-1 win at Rhyl with goals from Cerys Bills (2), Kelly Evans, Sonja Evans and Sarah Thomas.

Clash

LLANFAIR, meanwhile, lost ground after being beaten 3-1 at title chasing Ruthin.

Meanwhile, OSWESTRY men were forced to pull out of their clash with Evesham in the West Midlands League division two as they were unable to raise a side. The match will be rescheduled for later in the season.

SAINTS READY FOR A BANGOR BATTLE

WITH the Welsh Premier crown tantalisingly in their grasp, The New Saints are only too aware of the pitfalls when they tackle old adversaries Bangor City in Saturday's televised showdown at Park Hall (2pm).

The two sides have served up plenty of last day drama in the past, but this time they meet with the Saints in the ascendancy in the title race with an 11-point lead over the visitors at the top, and just seven games remaining.

It would take a remarkable collapse to deny TNS the crown for the second season running after surging clear on the back of an eight-match unbeaten run.

Bangor, however, will fight to the last, having moved into second spot with their 2-0 home win over Airbus UK last Friday – the same night as TNS were 3-0 winners against Prestatyn to consolidate pole position.

Despite the Saints being so far clear – and with victory on Saturday seemingly putting them on the brink of another league crown – head coach Carl Darlington is refusing to take anything for granted.

"We're in a fantastic posi-

by John Bridgwater

tion, but we've won nothing yet," he said. "We've no right to win any game, so the focus and preparation will be just the same.

Emphatic

"With our squad there's fierce competition, so players know they cannot let their standards slip.

"The incentive is there on Saturday, we know if we beat Bangor we will 14 points clear of them, and with a game in hand.

"But we're not getting ahead of ourselves, we'll just tick off one game at a time.

"We're on a great run having lost just once in our last

16 games, so naturally everyone's feeling confident. The pleasing thing is we're scoring goals from all over the pitch, and we've had 10 different goalscorers in the last 10 games."

The Saints have held the upper hand in their last two home outings against the Citizens, winning 3-0 earlier this season, while running out emphatic 5-0 victors on the last day of last season to seal the championship.

Midfielder Sam Finley serves the second of his three match ban, but Chris Seargeant (hamstring) and Aeron Edwards (dead leg) are both expected to be fit.

Darlington was pleased with last week's 3-0 success against Prestatyn, but felt the Saints had enough chances to have sealed the outcome far sooner.

Mike Wilde's missed penalty and a string of other spurned chances could have proved costly had Andy Parkinson not been denied by keeper Paul Harrison before the Saints got their third goal.

"We had enough chances to have put the game to bed, and you cannot afford to give teams a sniff," he said.

"But overall it was a pleasing performance."

HAVING won three of their last four league outings, Welshpool Town have cause for optimism as they bid to finish their Spar Mid Wales League division one season with a flourish in the coming weeks.

Pool appear to have shrugged off their basement worries with last week's 2-1 home win over Bow Street and, with five games remaining, will be hopeful of staying well clear of any trouble.

On Saturday, they face a trip to Aberystwyth University, which is followed by a must win clash at home to Newbridge next Wednesday. Pool are currently fourth from bottom with 22 points, but just two points off 10th position.

"A few weeks ago I set a target of 30

points which seemed a bit optimistic at the time, but it's certainly achievable now," said manager Dave Jones.

WATERLOO ROVERS bid to shrug off their cup woe when they return to Spar Mid Wales League action at home to Carno on Saturday. Dale Roberts' men bowed out of the Central Wales Cup with a 3-2 exit at Aberaeron. "We will now reassess ourselves in the remaining competitions," said Roberts.

MONTGOMERY bid to keep their flag flying in the Central Wales Cup when they host Tywyn Bryncreg in Saturday's quarter-final. The winners will meet Guilsfield in the last four, while the other semi-final sees Aberaeron take on Rhayader Town.

Guilsfield savouring Rhyl clash

IN-FORM Guilsfield put their revival to the test as they look to become the first Cymru Alliance side this season to defeat Rhyl.

The Guils go into Saturday's home clash in good shape after stretching their unbeaten run in all competitions to eight games with last weekend's 3-1 win at Penrhynoch.

They now face a sterner challenge against a side who have not lost in 24 league outings, but are savouring the task ahead as they chase a top five finish.

"Rhyl will be a different kettle of fish, a big test for us, but everyone's looking forward to the challenge," said manager Russell Cadwallader.

Guilsfield warmed up with a 3-1 win at Penrhynoch last weekend, having to come from behind after trailing 1-0 at the interval.

"We were a bit lethargic in the first half, but played a lot better in the second," added Cadwallader. "There was a bit of a fracas at the end of the first half which seemed to wake us up."

Lowly LLANRHAEDR host Porthmadog tomorrow as they battle for Cymru Alliance survival, with Josh Wood, Tom Evans and Rob Fox all added to the squad after missing last week's 2-0 home loss to high flying Rhyl.

Crosses still in cup hunt

FOUR Crosses remain on the Montgomeryshire Cup trail after edging out Montgomery 3-2 to book their place in the semi-finals.

Steve Beckett, aged 37, crashed home the winner in a thrilling tie to set up a clash with Caersws.

Monty took the lead through Elliot Jones, but Matty Jones curled in a tremendous strike to level.

The visitors went back in front through Rhidian Morris but Crosses were not to be denied as Ben Oakley levelled before the experienced Beckett struck the winner.

The day before, Gareth Jones netted a hat-trick as a depleted Crosses won 6-2 at Newbridge in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Crosses will be out to keep in touch with the leaders in Saturday's trip to struggling Dolgellau.

Darren's going for trial bike glory



Darren Williams who is aiming to become the best trials rider in Wales

DARING Darren Williams has his sights set on becoming the best trials bike rider in Wales... and he's received the full backing of his bosses in his quest for glory.

The 25-year-old mechanic at Fix Auto Oswestry Welsh Borders started his campaign for glory in the Welsh Trials Bike Championships with a fine sixth-place overall finish from a field of more than 70 riders during his first competition of 2013 held over the weekend at Knighton, Mid Wales.

The former Welsh Youth Champion, who has been riding "for as long as he can remember" has had his drive and determination to succeed recognised with an offer of support from his employer at the car repairer based in the small village of Llansymonech on the outskirts of Oswestry.

Managing Director Lee Hitch, said: "Darren's a terrific lad, a superb member of the team here. We've known for some time that he's a talented mechanic, however we never really knew those talents extended to his trials riding. On learning that he's being touted as a possible Welsh Champion, we instantly offered our help, whether it's a little funding or time off to practice and compete."

Darren, who lives in the village of Llansymonech, added: "I really appreciate all the help and assistance I can get. The competition is extremely tough but hopefully now I'll have that extra edge over my rivals."

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